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THE TIMES

35P

No. 65,836

THURSDAY MARCH 13 1997

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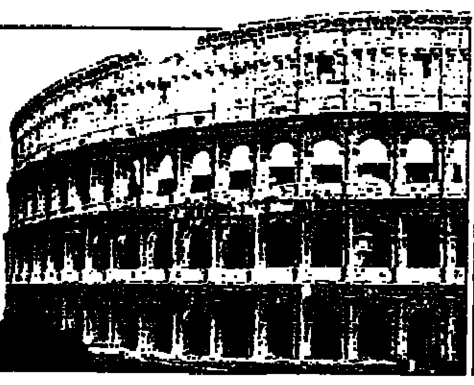

Success of a softly, softly start to boarding

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BEST FOR JOBS

WANTED

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☐ Buyer.....45K
☐ Graduate.....27K

APPOINTMENTS
26-PAGE SECTION

Use of 'reasonable force' approved

Judge orders anorexic girl to be detained

By Frances Gibb and Jeremy Laurence

AN ANOREXIC teenager whose fasting could kill her within days is to be detained against her will — with force if necessary — under a High Court order requiring her to undergo feeding treatment.

In what is thought to be the first common law order forcibly restricting a child's liberty for medical reasons, Mr Justice Wall agreed that the 16-year-old girl could be detained at a special treatment clinic and that she could be brought back if she ran away.

The girl, who cannot be named so is known only as C, has said that she would accept treatment voluntarily at the clinic, which is run "on boarding school lines", but doctors have refused to treat her without a court order because of her history of absconding.

C, who is one of five children and has suffered long-term sexual abuse by a brother, has had anorexia for two years. At one stage her weight dropped below six and a half stone — less than 70 per cent of the average weight for her height.

Her history of eating problems includes vomiting, laxative-taking and absconding from clinics. She has threatened suicide and was recently restrained from throwing herself to her death from a balcony.

Doctors say that she has the ability to stop eating and drinking very suddenly, putting herself at risk of collapse and death within three to seven days. Last November she was admitted to hospital as an emergency when it was discovered that she had eaten only a few slices of cucumber in the previous ten days.

C instructed lawyers to oppose the court order sought by her local authority, acting with the backing of her parents. But Mr Justice Wall said that it was in her best interests for him to grant the order until next month.

"I have no doubt that I have the power not only to direct that she reside in the clinic, but also to authorise the use of reasonable force (if necessary) to detain her in the clinic," he said.

Courts have ordered medical treatment against a patient's wishes in the past. But they have not approved the detention of a child without using the Mental Health Act, or unless the child was in need of secure accommodation or a care order.

Mr Justice Wall said that there was no doubt that the court had power to order a minor to undergo medical treatment against her will — that had been done before with anorexic children. The question was whether it could order the girl's detention under common law, rather than under the Mental Health Act.

That was not appropriate, he said, because the clinic was not a mental hospital and its philosophy was inimical to the compulsory admission of children under the Act, he said. Nor did it constitute secure accommodation, nor was there any question of care proceedings.

He concluded that detention was an essential component of C's treatment, and he therefore granted the order under section 100 of the Children Act 1989, which preserved the courts' common law powers to make such orders.

The decision was made after a private hearing in the High Court family division last Wednesday and the judge has now given permission for it to be reported because of the important principles involved.

Lawyers immediateiy expressed concern that the ruling marked a disturbing departure in the controversy over courts' powers to intervene in the treatment of patients against their wishes.

The barrister Barbara Hewson, who has protested in recent cases where women were obliged to undergo Caesarean section births, said: "It seems as if courts are now arresting and detaining people for treatment without Parliamentary authority. This is arbitrary and runs contrary to the European Convention on Human Rights, which guarantees the right to liberty."

But Joanna Vincent, director of the Eating Disorders Association, said that anorexic patients detained in hospital against their will under the Mental Health Act were often grateful when they had recovered. "A survey we conducted found that over half those who had been detained realised with hindsight that it had saved their lives. This can make doctors think it is a worthwhile course of action in certain circumstances."

MARC ASPLAND

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother arrives at Cheltenham yesterday for the Queen Mother Champion Chase, which was won by Martha's Son. Reports, pages 38 and 39

It's fiesta time as Commons lives high on the Hogg

Matthew Parris

Political Sketch

Even if it bans hunting, let us hope the next Government keeps what has become a Commons tradition: the weekly Hogg-fight. The Westminster fiesta is similar to a modern Spanish bullfight. There is excitement, a great deal of action in the ring and much noise from the onlookers, but the bull (or, in this case, Hogg) survives.

For the ritual, Agriculture Minister Douglas Hogg is dragged to the Chamber, where he snorts and stamps his feet. The Hogg is then forced to read out an incomprehensible statement about hygiene in slaughterhouses. Then Miss Boothroyd allows Opposition frontbenchers to be matadors, and backbenchers picadors, infuriating the beast by waving brightly-coloured distractions and spearing him with spikey enquiries. They insult the Hogg, call him incompetent and stupid, and ask complicated technical questions about *E. coli* viruses and meat pies.

Whatever the Hogg replies, MPs declare themselves totally dissatisfied with it. Whatever MPs declare, the Hogg maintains an air of jaunty and bellicose confidence, charging around the ring, bellowing and butting people.

Chief matador during this season has been Labour's Agriculture Spokesman, Gavin Strang. Mr Strang has excelled for energy but disappointed those who look for nimbleness, stealth or grace. Racing back and forth, roaring abuse, pulling the Hogg's tail and enraging the beast, Strang's perfomance has astonished the crowd but never quite floored the quarry, whom his barbs often miss. Mr Strang trips himself up frequently, and keeps bumping into things.

After more than an hour of this sport the irrepressible Hogg, much fought but alive and kicking, departs.

The irrepressible Strang, breathless but unhurt, departs too. The Labour picadors depart. The press depart. And everybody begins preparing for next week's Hogg-fight.

Perhaps to get herself into the mood of *fiesta*, Madam Speaker began fanning herself delicately after Questions yesterday, though with nothing more ornamental than her Order Paper.

Given the three bewigged clerks, the morning-suited attendant beside her and the sword-bearing Serjeant-at-arms at the door, none of them with any obvious function, you might think these gentlemen could take it in turns to fan her, punkah-wallah-style, on her canopied throne; but they

Continued on page 2, col 4

"Could you retune it so that I never have to watch Douglas Hogg again?"

Berisha faces new coalition

A general has begun to form the first serious coalition to challenge President Berisha from the south of Albania.

General Agim Gozhita, who was named as head of the new Committee for National Political Salvation, is said to have been co-ordinating uprisings in the southern part of the country.

End to carnival, page 11

Voucher scheme for care of old

Elderly people with assets up to £10,000 will be offered vouchers for residential care which they can spend on the nursing home of their choice, the Government said.

The measures announced by the Health Secretary include the selling of old people's homes............ Page 10

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Thatcher denies backing Portillo for leadership

By Philip Webster, political editor

BARONESS THATCHER moved yesterday to quash talk of an imminent Tory leadership battle by issuing a denial of claims that she was secretly helping a campaign launched by supporters of Michael Portillo.

Lady Thatcher lodged a protest to the Press Complaints Commission over a report suggesting that her staff had circulated a dossier on Conservative MPs and parliamentary candidates to help the Defence Secretary canvass support.

She described the claim in *The Express* as "malicious nonsense and entirely without foundation". She said that no such dossier, if it exists, was prepared either by her staff or with her authority.

An equally vehement denial was issued by John Whittingdale, Conservative MP for Colchester South and Maldon, Lady Thatcher's former parliamentary private secretary, who was reported to be the link between the unofficial Portillo campaign and the former prime minister. He also complained to the PCC.

The force of Lady Thatcher's reaction sprang from her horror at a report which she feared could have a destabilising effect on her successor as he prepares to call a general election. With Labour so far ahead in the polls, the Tory leadership is a popular topic of private conversation among Tory MPs. But Lady Thatcher wants to do nothing to fuel such talk.

John Major's announcement of the May 1 date is not now expected this week, although there are clear signs that the Government is preparing to wind up Commons business over the next fortnight. It is probable that the Commons will not return after the Easter recess although the formal dissolution date is expected to be April 8.

Mr Major will be launching his six-week campaign against Tony Blair in his speech to the Conservative Central Council in Bath on Saturday, and is likely to call the election sometime next week, probably on Tuesday or Thursday. The Government and Opposition chief whips have met informally to discuss the winding up of remaining Commons business.

Lady Thatcher has already promised Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative chairman, and Mr Major that she will do

Continued on page 2, col 4

Four schoolgirls die in crash blaze

By Staff Reporters

FOUR grammar school sixth-form girls died when their car crashed and burst into flames on a narrow country lane yesterday.

Two of the students, who were aged 17 or 18, were thrown from the car when it careered off the road, crossed a ditch and crashed into a tree at high speed. No other vehicle is believed to have been involved in the incident, which happened during the girls' school lunch break. A passing motorist alerted the rescue services.

Last night Kevin McAleese, their headmaster, paid tribute to the four who were, he said, "among the brightest and best of our students". Accident investigators were examining the wreckage of the Peugeot 106 in an attempt to explain how it left the road and caught fire so quickly.

It is understood the vehicle belonged to one of the girls, all of whom were preparing to take A levels this year at Harrogate Grammar School in North Yorkshire. The crash happened near the village of Beckwithshaw, about two miles from the school. The students were entitled to leave the premises during the break.

Mr McAleese said: "We are all deeply saddened. They were among the brightest and the best of our students; four people who contributed a lot to the sixth form." This morning he will talk to the sixth form at a special assembly.

Dean Whitehouse, bursar of the 1,600-pupil school, said: "They were well known and popular throughout the school. It is a tragic loss, both staff and pupils have been shocked and saddened by what has happened."

Drivers could pay penalty for sneaky parking meter

By Nick Nuttall
Technology Correspondent

A PARKING meter that telephones wardens to tell them when a car goes into penalty time has been developed by engineers.

When the warning is activated, the warden can see the location of the car on a hand-held electronic map. But any motorist hoping to take revenge on the sneak meter should approach with caution. It can send out a distress call to the nearest police station or a central security office if it is vandalised.

The meter, details of which are disclosed in *New Scientist* magazine today, uses a radar beam to scan the parking space and detect if a car is parked. If it runs out of money and the car is still there, the device dials a warden. The technology, which can be bolted on to existing meters, was revealed at the Twelfth Annual Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association meeting in San Francisco. The developers are MeterVision, a Canadian company, which expects the system to speed up the rate at which tickets are issued. It hopes to sell spy meters worldwide and to install them in American cities this summer.

But British experts, leaving a seminar of the British Parking Association in London yesterday, reacted with caution. David Millett, of Metric Parking in Cirencester, the world's second largest maker of parking equipment, said: "It sounds like overkill to me — just for twenty five cents or whatever." He said the spy meter might also intensify the bad blood between motorists and wardens. "They have a hard enough time."

Jim Richard, the president of MeterVision, denied the equipment smacked of Big Brother. He said the good news was that the devices took credit cards — so ending the frustration of fumbling for change.

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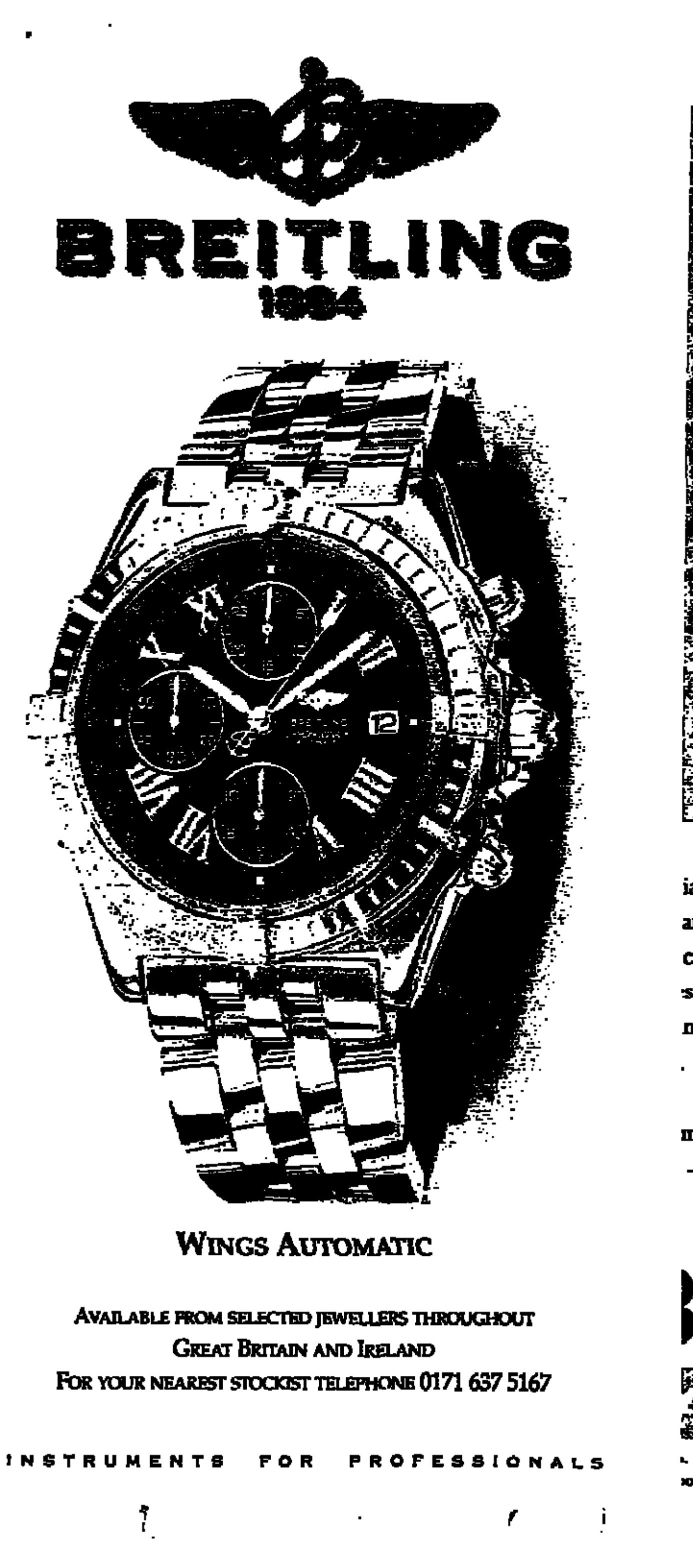

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INSTRUMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS

Minister concedes there is room for improvement in abattoir standards

Hogg forced back to dispatch box to defend record

By Polly Newton, political reporter

DOUGLAS HOGG survived the latest attack on the Government's handling of food safety yesterday, insisting in a Commons statement that hygiene standards in abattoirs were going up but conceding there was "scope for further improvement".

However, he faces renewed criticism after it emerged last night that in the two years since the Meat Hygiene Service was set up, no abattoir has been prosecuted for breaching hygiene rules associated with the spread of *E. coli*, the bacterium found in animal faeces which recently claimed 20 lives in Scotland.

The Agriculture Minister was forced to come to the dispatch box for the second time in a week after Labour released letters from trading standards officers at Northumberland County Council saying that they did not have the resources to implement measures aimed at preventing the spread of BSE. None of the letters, sent on June 17, July 22 and December 12, received replies.

Mr Hogg was boosted by an expression of confidence in him from Downing Street just minutes before he rose to his feet, although the Prime Minister has asked for a full report from the Ministry of Agriculture into the measures taken to drive up standards in abattoirs and meat hygiene services in general.

Mr Hogg told MPs: "This Government has done a great deal to enforce and bring about higher standards in abattoirs." He said that in order to raise standards, the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) had been set formal targets to improve poorly performing abattoirs. "In the first year, the MHS was set a target of increasing by ten points the scores of those plants which were below 65 on a scale of 0 to 100. This target was met in full.

"For 1996-97, they were required to ensure that at least two-thirds of the plants exceeded 65. It seems likely that this target will be met."

Setting out the steps taken and those planned by the Government, he said: "I have told the chief executive [of the MHS] that in appropriate cases, infringement of the rules should result in prosecution." Licences could be revoked.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture admitted afterwards that no prosecutions had been brought so far against abattoirs for allowing in animals contaminated with faeces, although there have been cases against those which fail to take proper precautions against the spread of BSE.

He said the hygiene service had concentrated on ensuring that inspectors monitoring abattoirs were competent: three inspectors had been dismissed and disciplinary action had been taken against 45.

He added that he had asked the chief executive of the hygiene service, Johnston McNeil, to prepare a statement on meat hygiene for Professor Hugh Pennington, who is leading the inquiry into the Scottish *E. coli* outbreak.

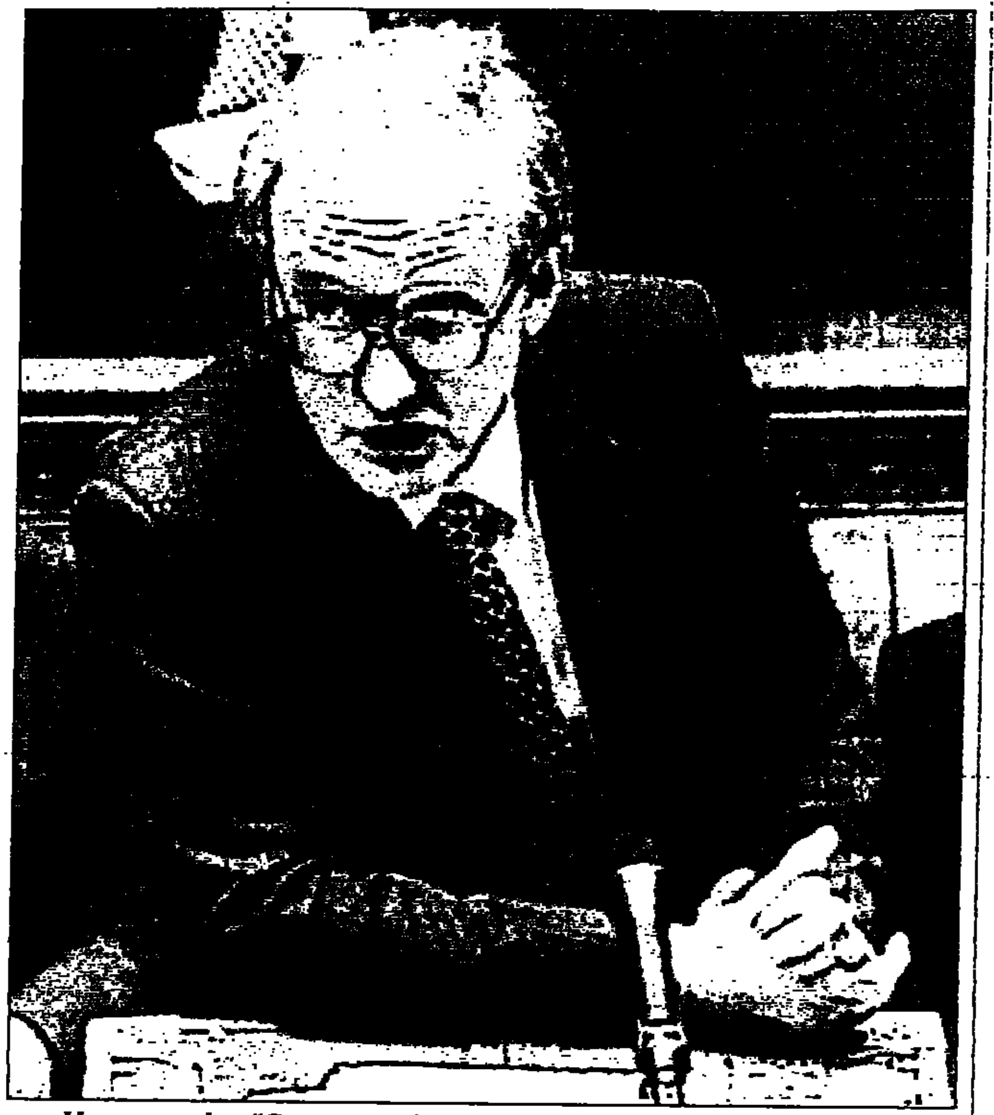
Responding to Mr Hogg, Gavin Strang, Shadow Agriculture Minister, said the statement had "utterly failed" to address the issues raised by the Opposition. "There is no confidence in you, nor your Government, as far as food safety is concerned."

He said the number of state vets, with a crucial role to play in abattoir inspections, had been cut from nearly 600 in 1979 to less than 300 today.

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, also acknowledged yesterday that abattoir hygiene standards needed to be improved. Speaking at the launch of the annual review of government agencies, Mr Heseltine said: "It is exactly because of this that the Government took the issue seriously and the targets are available for you to examine. It will be driven higher next year."

Strang: statement has failed to address fears

Leading article, page 19


Hogg yesterday: "Government has done a great deal to enforce standards"

Fiesta time at the Commons

Continued from page 1

never do. And it soon became plain that something beyond the heat was displeasing Miss Boothroyd.

She rose with a Statement, pursuant to Tuesday's fuss after a Labour MP read his point of order from a paging device. Most MPs (while deploring it) think this has all been rather a hoot. They were ready for more knockabout. They misjudged Madam Speaker's mood.

"I have no objection," she declared (after censuring bleepers), "to instruments which merely *vibrate*..."

I regret to report that there was laughter. Miss Boothroyd was not amused. She adopted an air of dignified affront, like a Sunday School teacher whose little charges have giggled at the mention of the bosom of Abraham.

"He appeared," she said (describing Tuesday's atrocity) "to be relating information on a *small screen*, relayed to him from outside the Chamber". Her tone was shocked.

"I strongly deprecate" such practices. MPs should not receive instructions. And that went for "earpieces" too.

Earpieces too? Are the new Labour backbenchers to suffocate, then? Off come all those headsets relaying commands from Peter Mandelson: "*Breathe in. Breathe out. Breathe in...*"

St Hilda's students oppose male dons

By David Charter
Education correspondent

THE women of St Hilda's College, Oxford, are preparing to defend its status as the university's last all-female college. They voted by 2-1 yesterday to oppose college plans to accept male dons because of a shortage of female fellows in such key subjects as engineering and science.

St Hilda's cannot afford the £1 million to create more of its own fellowships, which it is allowed to fill with female academics under exemption from equal opportunities laws. The college is proposing to change its statutes next month to share the cost with the university and to accept the university's appointments, four fifths of whom are male.

Tamsin Lishman, the students' president, said they feared that the break with the college's 104-year-old all-female tradition would be a short step away from admitting male students. "Going mixed will not help promote women academics and it will not solve the problem that there are not enough women academics in Oxford," she said.

Letters, page 19

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Secret funding of Labour offices to be restricted

By Arthur Leathley, political correspondent

NEW curbs are to be introduced on the use of "blind trusts" under which Tony Blair and other senior Labour figures have received office funding of several hundred thousand pounds.

The move to amend guidelines on secret donations coincides with a Commons decision yesterday to reject a complaint against Mr Blair for running his office with money from donors whose names are withheld from the Labour leader.

Labour has not declared the source of donations towards the running of the offices of several senior frontbenchers, provoking Tory claims that Mr Blair's team has found a way round rules on the declaration of financial interests.

The Commons Committee on Standards and Privileges is to draft new regulations on the donations but it emerged yesterday that any rule changes introduced after the general election will not be retrospective, allowing blind trusts already approved in principle by the Commons standards watchdog to continue.

The funding for Mr Blair's office has been the subject of formal complaints by David Shaw, Tory MP for Dover, who claimed that the Labour leader had breached the rules that call for MPs to declare outside financial interests.

Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, decided yesterday that there was "no case to answer" on the allegations, unless Mr Shaw provided direct evidence that Mr Blair was aware of donors' names.

However, Sir Gordon said that the disciplinary committee planned to investigate the use of blind trusts. It had been agreed that "rules governing contributions to the administrative expenses of government and opposition spokesmen need to be codified".

Senior MPs on the committee say that rule changes are inevitable, but there is cross-party division over how guidelines can be made effective. Tory MPs also fear that, if Labour wins the general election and therefore have a majority on the committee, the rule changes will be minimal.

Mr Shaw has also made a formal complaint to the committee over office funding for John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, Gordon Brown, Shadow Chancellor, Margaret Beckett, Shadow Trade President, and Robin Cook, Shadow Foreign Secretary.

Labour has insisted that donors to the funds are kept secret so that the frontbenchers concerned cannot be accused of being influenced.

Warning over frigate 'deadlock'

AN £8 billion warship programme signed by Britain, France and Italy is in trouble because of rival national interests. A leaked letter by Admiral Sir Robert Walmsley, Chief of Defence Procurement, to his French and Italian counterparts warns of "deadlock" over a range of issues.

The warship is the Horizon-class frigate which is due to come into service next century, replacing the Royal Navy's Type 42 destroyers. Britain plans to buy 12 of the frigates. However, in the letter leaked to the *International Defence Newsletter*, Sir Robert warned that the programme needed to be shaken up.

Differences have arisen over the air defence missile system, torpedo defences and even accommodation arrangements. The next milestone is the start of the design and construction of the first ship for each of the three partners, planned for mid-1998.

But there is still no contract. A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said Britain remained committed to the collaborative project.

Thatcher denies backing Portillo

Continued from page 1

all she can to secure the re-election of the Tories, including campaigning, and she was said to be upset at a report that could only harm his prospects.

Lady Thatcher has long been a supporter of Mr Portillo — he appealed to her to stay on and fight a second ballot when all looked lost in the leadership contest of 1990 — but in recent months she has also appeared sympathetic to the other rightwing candidates, John Redwood and Michael Howard. Her endorsement remains a vital factor for the candidates.

Mr Portillo was also furious over the story, because any suggestions of secret plotting are damaging to his cause, which is seen to have improved in recent months. He said: "The only campaign in which I am involved is supporting John Major and the Conservative Party in the general election."

Mr Whittingdale said: "This story is a total fabrication and utterly without foundation. It is clearly designed to cause damage to Lady Thatcher, Michael Portillo and to the Conservative Party."

Potential candidates are wary of being seen to be vying for the crown. Sources close to Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, have this week denied reports that she had ruled herself out of any future contest for the leadership. Supporters of William Hague, the Welsh Secretary and emerging centre-right candidate, were blamed by some MPs for being behind the erroneous reports.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Trials of electronic tagging expanded

Electronic tagging of offenders, from the age of ten upwards, is to be extended rapidly in preparation for a nationwide scheme. Ministers are to extend three pilot schemes for 12 months and expand the area the schemes cover. The Government believes that tagging may help to reduce the rise in the prison population.

The number of tagging orders made between July 1995 and March 1997 was 325, with 86 currently being supervised. Harry Fletcher, of the National Association of Probation Officers, said that each curfew order was costing about £5,000. He estimated that the Home Office would need 20,000 orders in operation to make tagging economical.

Floating jail arrives

A floating prison, obtained to ease overcrowding, is expected to moor off the Dorset coast today after sailing from New York. The £3.5 million vessel has been renamed HM Prison Weare. Residents and councillors have objected to the "floating detention facility" being moored in Portland harbour, but the Prison Service is confident that the first of the 500 inmates will be admitted next month.

Combat 18 racists jailed

Three members of Combat 18 were jailed yesterday. The men, who cannot be named because two face committal proceedings on a more serious charge, pleaded guilty at the Old Bailey to possessing threatening and abusive material with the intention of distributing it to stir up racial unrest. The two men were each jailed for 17 months. The third, who will be a witness at the new trial, was given 12 months.

Ship body identified

A body recovered from the sunken wreckage of the Arbroath trawler *Westhaven* was identified last night as George Pattison, 38, its skipper. Aberdeen Police said the three other crew members were still missing, feared drowned. The search for a canoeist missing off the Scottish island of Iona was called off last night. Coastguards yesterday found a waterproof jacket belonging to Gail Webster, 33.

Courts martial battle

The Ministry of Defence is facing another 44 cases in which sacked Service personnel claim their courts martial violated the European Convention on Human Rights. MoD officials told the Commons Defence Committee that, although the ministry did not accept last month's ruling by the European Court of Human Rights that the system was unfair, reforms had been implemented in response to earlier criticism.

Purse saved for nation

The British Museum has bought the 1590s velvet purse which held the Great Seal of Queen Elizabeth I, rediscovered a few months ago in a private mews house. It paid between £40,000 and £50,000 24 hours ahead of an auction, which would almost certainly have ended with the purse, right, going to America. Kerry Taylor, the Sotheby's textile specialist who discovered it, said: "There was furious activity to save it for Britain after *The Times* covered it." The British Museum, which will display the purse later this month, was a natural home: it boasts the national collection of seal dies and official Seals.

The purchase was made possible by a grant of £28,200 from the Heritage Lottery Fund and £10,000 from the National Art Collections Fund, the leading art charity. Mrs Taylor said: "There will be a lot of disappointed Americans."

Call for free-parking tax

A tax on free parking at out-of-town shopping centres was demanded yesterday by an all-party group of MPs who said measures were needed to improve the fortunes of the high street. The levy would reflect the higher environmental costs of out-of-town shopping, such as increased road congestion and air pollution from cars, the Environment Select Committee said.

Runaway student found

A student who lost his place at university a year ago was found suffering from hypothermia after running away from home and sleeping rough. Christopher Leeming, 20, of Nottingham, could not bring himself to tell his parents he was no longer at the city's university, but they found out after he vanished. Police, who said the pressure appeared to have become too much for him, feared he would not be found alive.

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Verbal attacks on blacks, gays and poor

Tory dinner guests air prejudices on TV

By Carol Midgley and Adrian Lee

A TELEVISION programme that purports to show that bigotry is alive and well in Tory middle-class Britain will be screened on Channel 4 in two weeks.

In the fly-on-the-wall documentary, eight friends, described by the makers as "dyed in the wool" Tories, will be shown at a dinner party verbally attacking black people, homosexuals and the poor.

Last night Paul Watson, the programme maker, said the subjects were not Tory activists but ordinary middle-class voters with strong beliefs. They live in East Anglia and were recruited through an advertisment in *The Daily Telegraph*. Filmed as they tucked into prawn St Jacques, pork in caramelised apple, and triple chocolate pudding, washed down with liberal amounts of wine, the diners may live to regret their decision.

Henry, one of the guests, suggests that homosexuals in the Armed Forces should be chemically castrated. Catherine shuns the idea of equality in society. "An equal society is not one that I think I would love to see in my lifetime," she proffers.

‘An equal society is not one that I would love to see in my lifetime’

‘We have to stop people coming in just because they have a British passport’

The Dinner Party, made "somewhere in East Anglia", was filmed three weeks ago at the home of two of the participants, Judith, 34, a cook, and Bill, 41, an unemployed businessman. Their friends, Richard, George, Bridget, Henry, Catherine and Jon, range from a Lloyd's insurance broker to a petrol pump attendant.

Mr Watson, who made the *Sylvania Waters* documentary about a family living in Sydney, Australia, and was accused by the subjects of misrepresenting them, insists the eight were not set up. "I do not set people up," he said. "We said to these people time and time again, 'Say what you mean and mean what you say because you won't get another chance.' Every quote is uncut and as said.

"I may give people rope and sometimes they hang themselves with it, sometimes they make a cat's cradle."

Most of the guests have voted Conservative in the past and agree they will do so again. At least two say they have considered voting Labour but fear Tony Blair will be overtaken by leftwingers if he wins the election.

One of the favourite topics of conversation is black people. One of the guests saus: "I am not keen on black Rastafarian Africans and, yes, I find the Asian community delightful. The Africans always have their hands out. We have to stop people coming in just because they have a British passport."

Snippets of conversation from the dinner table include Richard's views on homosexuals: "We don't want queers in the Army." Bridget on the poor: "As Jesus is reported to have said, the poor will always be with us. I am afraid the unemployed will be too."

On money, Bill says: "If people want to be greedy, they are entitled to be greedy." Catherine ventures: "I don't believe everyone should have the ability to earn the same."

Mr Watson, whose programme will be screened on March 24, said he ended up feeling sorry for his subjects who, he says, have a "poverty of intellect".

He added: "I felt that I was looking at a group of people whose time had gone. They dream of Thatcher. They dream of times past when we kicked people around Europe. And when you see your power eroding, you hit out."

Girl, 9, threw baby over garden hedge

By Kathryn Knight

A BABY was recovering in hospital last night after a nine-year-old girl took him from his pram and threw him over a hedge.

Six-week-old Brandon Ford disappeared from outside his grandmother's home in Fegg Hayes, Stoke-on-Trent, and was found head down covered in soil in a nearby garden nearly an hour later. His mother Sharon Ford, 27, was at his bedside at North Staffordshire Hospital last night as he recovered fom a head injury. Brandon was reported missing by his grandmother Kathleen, who was looking after him for the day and had placed his pram outside.

Police began a major search with dogs and a helicopter as dozens of locals joined in. Brandon was only found an hour later face down in the garden of a local pensioner when she went to remove what she thought was a doll.

Lee Vincent, 20, Brandon's father, said: "The way he was found lying face down and covered in soil it seems he was thrown over a 5ft hedge. We're just glad he wasn't badly hurt but he did have a bump on his head.

A police spokesman said that a nine-year-old girl had admitted to police she had taken the baby but had only taken him for a walk when he started to cry.

"Soon afterwards, she heard the screaming of the baby's family and the commotion she had caused and was too scared to take the baby back," he said. He said the girl would not be charged.

SIMON WALKER

Lady Harlech is escorted on the Chanel catwalk by Karl Lagerfeld yesterday

Tennant: end of contract

Lagerfeld parades Chanel's new muse

By Grace Bradberry
Style Editor

KARL LAGERFELD, Chanel's chief designer, yesterday showed off his new muse — the inspirational Amanda Harlech — as well as his new clothes.

Lady Harlech, the 36-year-old wife of Lord Harlech, who went to work with Lagerfeld in December after Christian Dior failed to include her in its contract with the British designer John Galliano, made a reluctant appearance on the Chanel catwalk at the close of yesterday's autumn-winter shows in Paris.

But as one aristocrat arrives, another goes. Stella Tennant, a granddaughter of the Duchess of Devonshire, appeared in the show, but her year-long contract with Chanel has ended. Lagerfeld sent out first on to the catwalk the new face of Chanel: Karen Elson, aged 19, from Manchester, with no aristocratic connections.

This was the first Chanel collection in which Amanda Harlech's influence as the designer's assistant and adviser might be detected. Gone were most of the Chanel logos that used to be sprinkled liberally across jackets, belts and handbags. Even the bra worn by the model Kate Moss featured semi-precious stones in place of interlocked Cs.

Gone too were the sequins and gold buttons that have sometimes added sparkle — but not necessarily good taste. Instead, intricate wool embroidery in a mix of blues, greens and reds covered entire coats and decorated traditionally boxy Chanel jackets. For once, there were no handbags.

Yorkshire Ripper loses sight in one eye

PETER SUTCLIFFE, the Yorkshire Ripper, has been blinded in one eye after he was stabbed with a pen.

The 50-year-old murderer was taken to hospital yesterday for an examination of his damaged eyes but doctors have already given up hope of saving the sight in one. It is likely that he will have seriously impaired vision in the other eye.

Sutcliffe was attacked in Broadmoor Hospital on Monday by Ian Kay, a fellow patient, with a felt-tip pen.

Sutcliffe was taken to Frimley Park Hospital in Camberley, Surrey, for treatment immediately after the attack and returned there yesterday to be looked at by a team of specialists. He was taken under guard from the medical block at Broadmoor and was heavily bandaged.

Thames Valley Police have launched an investigation into the attack, and will question patients. A Broadmoor source suggested that Kay had probably been trying to establish his reputation among his fellow patients.

John Sutcliffe, the killer's father, said he had heard nothing from the hospital about his son's condition. "All I have heard about him being blind is through the media, which annoys me — I would much prefer to hear from the hospital myself," he said.

Police inspector accused of assault on receptionist

By Kathryn Knight

A POLICE receptionist told a court yesterday that she was left "numb with anger" after a senior officer gyrated his hips against her as he squeezed past her in a doorway.

The 25-year-old woman said Inspector Raymond Hansen, 53, had thrust against her repeatedly as he complimented her on her tea-making abilities at the East London station where they worked.

Four other police officers had seen the incident, the woman told Southwark Crown Court. "It is a busy area where people need to push past each other, but this was very different," she said.

The alleged assault happened at about 6am on August 18, 1995, the jury was told. Miss X, who cannot be identified, was in the doorway chatting to four police constable colleagues. "Inspector Hansen was behind me. He moved round so he was facing me. He was too close," she said. "He then started moving the lower part of his body against my hip area. He was moving in and out and from side to side. I can't recall how many times he did this but it was a good few times," she said.

She told the jury that, as he assaulted her, "he said in my ear that I made him a much better cup of tea yesterday than the one he had today".

She discussed what had happened with the four police constables and made a formal complaint to the chief superintendent a few days later.

Mr Hansen, from Buckhurst Hill, Essex, denies indecent assault. In a statement given to the investigating officer, he pointed out that he did not have a good working relationship with some of the officers working that particular shift, and believed that the allegation was malicious.

Philippa McAtasney, for the defence, suggested to the woman that she had blown the incident out of proportion. "I suggest that it was him moving around you and using his belly as a pivot, a sort of shimmy."

The case continues.

Hansen: he denies indecent assault

Shipping forecast in uncharted waters

By Kathryn Knight

THE shipping forecast is to be presented by a mystery guest tomorrow, departing from a 71-year tradition. Listeners have been asked to nominate a personality to read the forecast for the nation's seafarers at lunchtime on Friday in aid of Comic Relief.

It will be the first time that the roll-call of Dogger, North Utsire, South Utsire and German Bight has not been read by a BBC announcer since the forecast started on January 26, 1926.

Listeners have until 10am tomorrow to make their nominations on a special telephone line. Each call costs £1, of which 60p goes to Comic Relief. The winner will be invited to to record the forecast in advance. Radio 4's chief announcer, Peter Donaldson, will stand by in case of pronunciation disasters.

A Radio 4 spokeswoman said the forecast was "a complicated bit of radio" and it was easy to get tongue-tied. She said the station was anticipating a flood of nominations. "It is a part of Radio 4 that is enormously popular with all sorts of listeners, not just seafarers. Many people say the late-night forecast is like listening to a soothing bit of poetry."

The number to call is 0897 556677.

Chatty cabbies get commercial break

By Alan Hamilton

"TRAFFIC'S terrible, guv. Not my fault if you're gonna be late to meet the old lady. What you want is a mobile phone. Try one of them Siemens jobs. What did you think of West Ham last night, then? . ."

Those who dread being held captive with a chatty taxi driver face a new peril: sponsored conversation. From Monday, 100 cabbies will be paid to slip the topic of mobile telephones into their discourse.

An advertising agency acting for Siemens, the German telecommunications company, has schooled the London cabbies in how to include three key selling points of the firm's mobile phone in what sounds like a normal conversation. Each driver is being given an undisclosed sum and a free telephone.

A spokesman for the agency, Impact FCA, said confidently yesterday: "Cabbies are great talkers, and everyone loves a natter with their taxi driver." He added that the drivers were trained to back off if their passenger showed signs of resistance to advertising on the move.

Taxi drivers' representatives gave the idea a qualified welcome. Richard Bassett, of the Licensed Taxi Drivers' Association, said: "Anything that means drivers getting more money is welcome. But if I were a passenger I don't think I would be too happy about this."

The Public Carriage Office, which regulates London taxis, said that sponsored cabbies, as distinct from vehicles painted with advertising, could be against the rules. Ann Keoghan, spokeswoman for the office, said the law was clear that cabbies should not act as agents. "How can you tell what is normal conversation and what is an advert? Cabbies will often tell you they have bought such-and-such a washing machine and how marvellous it is, without anyone paying them to do it. But being paid to advertise mobile telephones sounds like completely unacceptable behaviour," Ms Keoghan said.

It is likely to become unacceptable to the drivers, too, if they find that most passengers regard their sponsorship fee as an adequate substitute for a tip.

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SATURDAY

IN THE TIMES

FATHERLOVE

Janine di Giovanni celebrates the first man in every woman's life *in* **Weekend**

TURNING TABLES

Where do food fads come from? *in the* **Directory**

plus

The Magazine, Weekend Money, 1015 for young readers and **Car 97**

Director criticises burial of Globe site

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

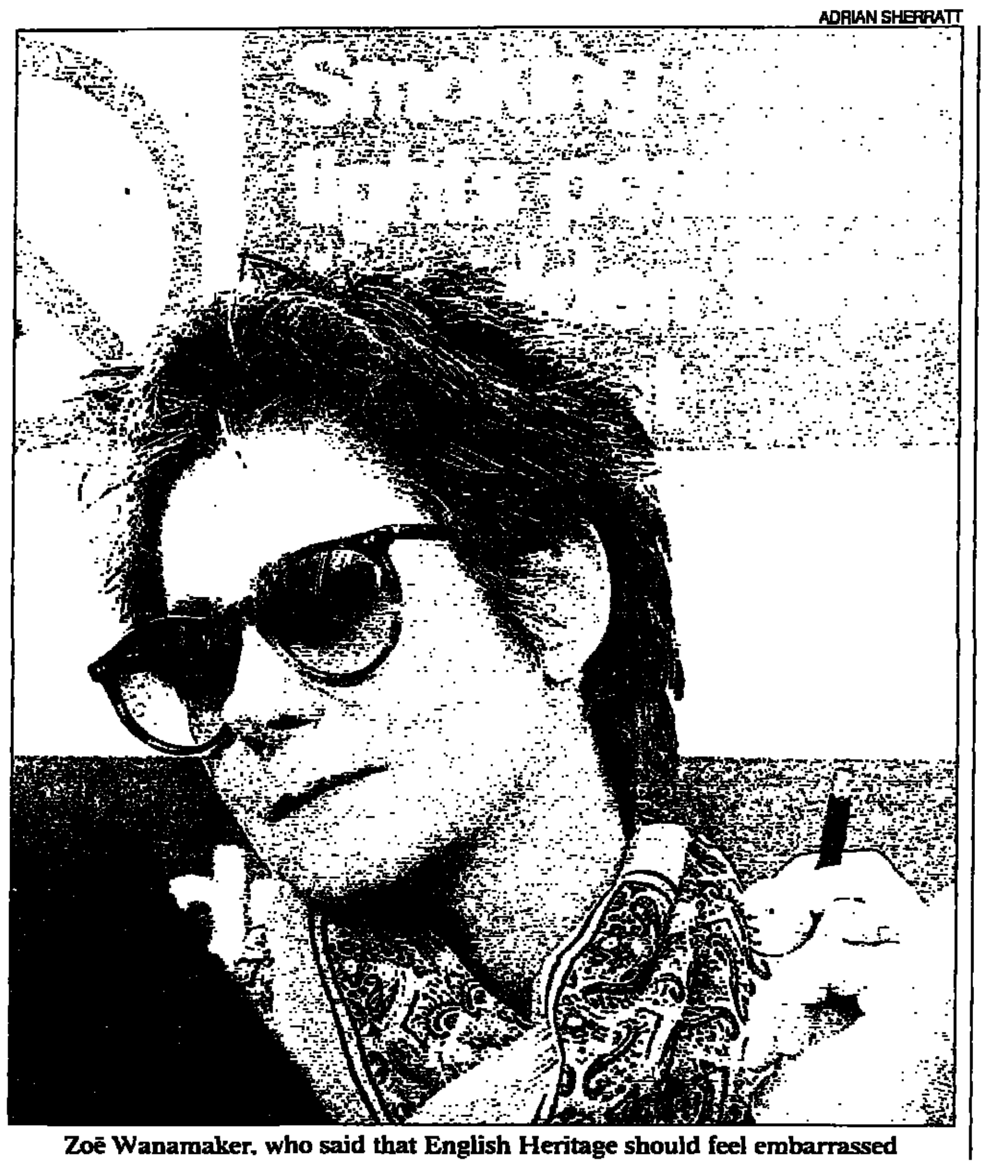
THE artistic director of the reconstructed Globe Theatre attacked English Heritage yesterday over its decision to bury the original site of Shakespeare's "Wooden O".

Mark Rylance said that archaeologists and historians would be denied the chance to find out more about the historic theatre, 200 yards from the recreated Globe.

Scholars do not have answers to even the most basic questions: the size of the original theatre, which way the stage pointed, its width and where the pillars stood. The actress Zoë Wanamaker, whose late father, Sam, was inspirational in the Globe's reconstruction, said that English Heritage "should feel embarrassed".

Ellen Barnes, English Heritage's inspector of ancient monuments for Greater London, said: "It's not a general right to excavate fully all the archaeological remains. We have to leave something for future generations."

ADRIAN SHERRATT



Zoë Wanamaker, who said that English Heritage should feel embarrassed

Head of Channel 5 admits 18,000 have cause to complain

By Alexandra Frean
Media Correspondent

CHANNEL 5 admitted yesterday that it had given 18,000 television viewers "serious cause for complaint" in its race to retune their video equipment before it goes on air on March 30. Grievances centred on retuners who failed to turn up for appointments or who broke video recorders and television sets but failed to replace or repair them.

David Elstein, the channel's chief executive, said the company had paid out between £20,000 and £30,000 to 525 complainants so far to recompense them for the stress and inconvenience caused by botched retuning jobs. "There are people who are unhappy with missed appointments, damaged equipment and — in their view — our niggardly offers of compensation," Mr Elstein said yesterday.

He added that every week he personally sent out "scores" of letters to viewers about their complaints. Speaking at The Television Show conference in London, Mr Elstein said that the people who had experienced problems with retuning represented 0.0068 per cent of the nine million or so homes that may require retuning. "Even though it is just a tiny proportion, we do take these complaints very seriously."

Elstein: has written to dissatisfied viewers

Mr Elstein accused *The Times* of exaggerating the scale of the problem caused by botched retuners. "What *The Times* has not understood is what March 30 is all about. The notion that somehow our phone lines will be flooded with thousands of people complaining about interference is bananas," he said.

He admitted, however, that although "only" 18,000 of the nine million or so households that the Channel 5 retuners aimed to visit had "serious cause for complaint", the individuals concerned had every right to feel aggrieved.

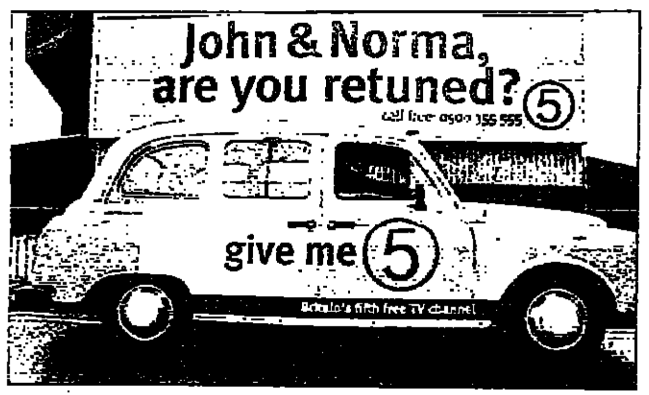
Channel 5 is obliged by law to ensure that no television viewers suffer from interference from its signal. The interference occurs because its signal is close the frequency used by many video recorders. The station must eliminate interference from 90 per cent of households in its broadcast areas before it is allowed on air.

Mr Elstein said that the channel had now reached this target in all of its broadcast areas except Northern Ireland. "Whatever rumours you may have heard to the contrary, we will be launching on March 30," he said.

He said that 200,000 to 300,000 people in south London would not be able to receive Channel 5 initially because it will be using a different transmitter to that used by the other main broadcasters. Entire towns such as Slough were also affected for similar reasons. Mr Elstein also said that many occupants of blocks of flats would not be able to receive Channel 5.

He said that at £150 million, the retuning operation had cost Channel 5 three times more than it had originally estimated. "I don't believe any of the applicants for the Channel 5 licence anticipated the problems of wastage and attrition that we encountered," he said.

☐ *The Channel 5 ombudsman, Stuart Sansom, can be reached at Channel 5 Broadcasting Limited, 22 Long Acre, London WC2E 9LY; telephone 0171-550 5555. To arrange a retuning appointment, ring 0500 555 255. For inquiries about retuning, ring 0500 355 555.*



The answer to Channel 5's advert may well be no

Advert prompts negative reaction

By Carol Midgley and Alexandra Frean

CHANNEL 5 appeared last night to have scored an own goal with its £5 million poster campaign, which used the names of celebrity couples to publicise its retuning programme.

"Liam and Patsy, are you retuned?" asked the posters. The advertisements, devised by the Soho-based agency Mother, also inquired whether John and Norma, Lenny and Dawn, Tara and Tamara and Charles and Camilla had had their television and video equipment retuned to enable them to watch Channel 5 without interference.

But yesterday agents for the celebrities involved suggested that the answer may well be "No."

A spokesman for Tamara Beckwith, paired on the poster with fellow socialite Tara Palmer-Tomkinson, said: "Tamara has certainly not been retuned and nor was she consulted about appearing on the posters. Channel 5 has been very careful only to use first names, so legally they don't need permission. But everyone is going to know who they mean."

A spokesman for Miss Palmer-Tomkinson said: "Tara was not consulted about this poster. I am pretty sure she hasn't been retuned. In fact, I don't think she even had a television set at the time."

A spokesman for Liam Gallagher of Oasis was equally confused. "We don't know anything about this," he said. "I'm not sure if they have been retuned."

Even the reference to John and Norma Major appeared muddled. Their home, in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, is not in the retuning area and 10 Downing Street has not yet been retuned. A spokesman said: "We have not yet made adaptations for Channel 5. If it is necessary, we will use our own engineers."

Retuning is necessary to prevent the new station's signal causing interference on many video machines, which use a frequency close that occupied by Channel 5. The company aims to visit up to nine million homes within its catchment area by the time it goes on air on March 30, to see whether retuning is necessary.

CORRECTION

Mrs Frances Shand-Kydd did not, as reported on March 10, receive an invitation to the confirmation of her grandson, Prince William.

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Liz Sullivan - PEP Services Manager

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Mary Robinson to step down as Irish President

By Audrey Magee
Ireland Correspondent

MARY ROBINSON announced yesterday that she will not be seeking a second term as President of Ireland. She is expected to seek the vacant position of United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights.

Her decision to step down as the seventh President of Ireland ends seven groundbreaking years in which she put the largely ceremonial post to new use, becoming heavily involved in domestic and international affairs.

The former civil liberties lawyer and mother of three told RTE radio that she had been deliberating since Christmas but finally made up her mind to stand down two weeks ago. Her decision had been "very, very difficult". She is due to leave in the autumn.

John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, said that Mrs Robinson had "symbolised the modernisation of Ireland".

After her election as Ireland's first woman President in 1990 Mrs Robinson declared that, through her victory, the women of Ireland "instead of rocking the cradle have rocked the system". In 1992 she caught the world's attention when she became visibly upset during a visit to famine-ravaged Somalia. She returned to Africa a number of times, most recently to Rwanda earlier this month.

Robinson: may become a UN commissioner

The President told RTE radio: "I have a real commitment to the area of human rights and I would be exploring the possibilities." The position of UN Commissioner for Human Rights fell vacant last month after the unexpected decision by José Ayala Lasso to return to Ecuador to take up the post of Foreign Minister. Mrs Robinson has often been mentioned as the perfect candidate for a UN post in human rights or refugee work.

Mr Bruton said: "I think it is fair to say that the President is not only a distinguished lawyer, but also somebody who touches people and I think that she recognises that human rights are achieved not only by the passing of edicts but also by the changing of people's minds and hearts."

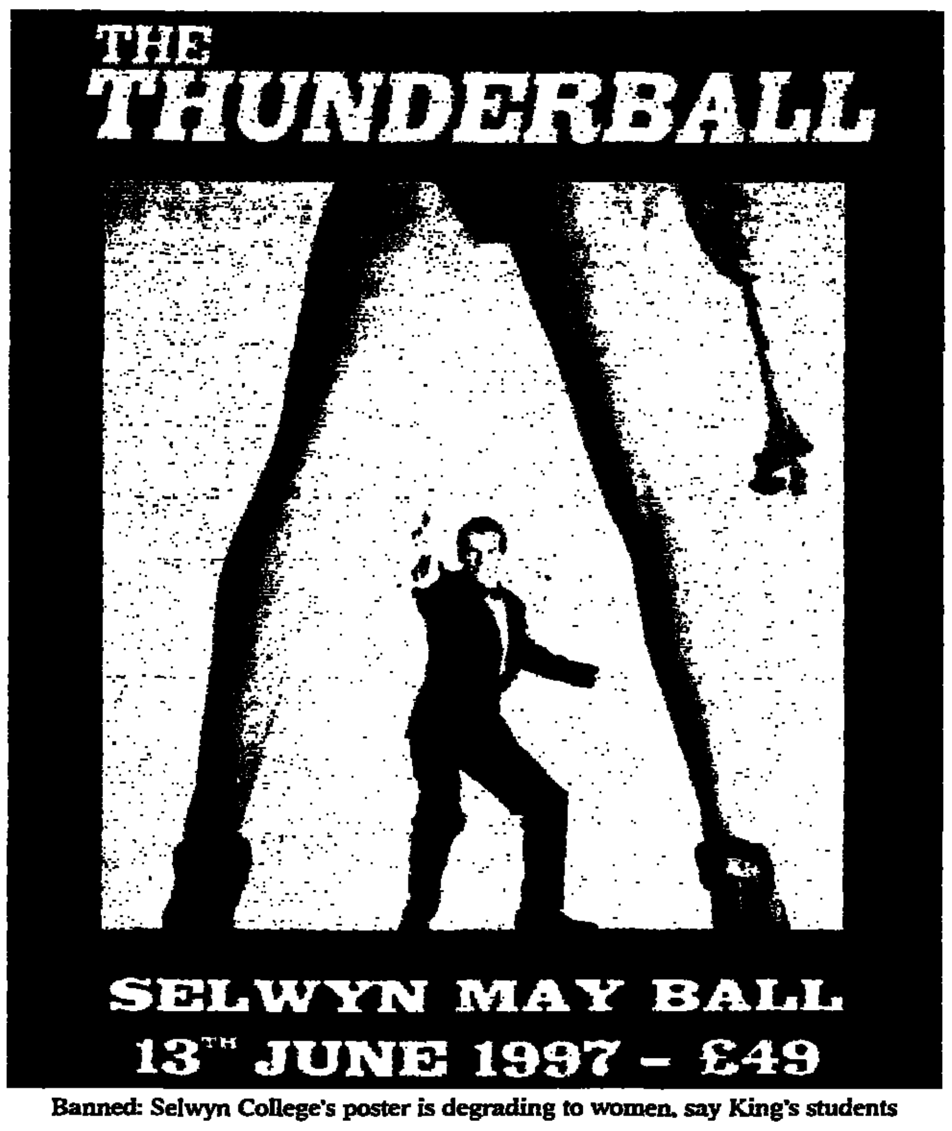
Lobbying is expected to begin this weekend when Mr Bruton travels to Washington for St Patrick's Day celebrations in the White House.

Mr Bruton said Mrs Robinson had been "the best President Ireland ever had". She had incorporated marginalised groups such as women, travellers and the disabled into the centre of Irish life. "She brought honour and pride to the people of Ireland. She symbolised the modernistaion of this country and she dissipated some of the stereotypes about this country that had existed abroad."

But the President was not without her critics. Unionists in Northern Ireland thought her interfering and were outraged when, in 1993, before any IRA ceasefire, she shook hands with Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader. But, despite the criticism, she persisted and met groups from both sides of the religious and political divide. Last year, she became the first Irish leader to pay an official visit to the Queen.

Her departure has left Ireland facing two elections this year — a general election expected on June 5 and now the possibility of a presidential poll. Now that the path is cleared, Charles Haughey and Albert Reynolds, both former Prime Ministers, are expected to stand. They are likely to be joined by David Andrews, their younger Fianna Fail party colleague and former Foreign Minister. John Hume, the SDLP leader, is being talked of as a possible candidate. Mary O'Rourke, deputy leader of Fianna Fail, yesterday ruled herself out.

Tributes to Mrs Robinson poured in yesterday. One woman said she was devastated at her departure. It is like a death in the family. I am really sorry to see her go."



Banned: Selwyn College's poster is degrading to women, say King's students

Leggy May Ball poster banned as degrading

By David Charter
Education Correspondent

A POSTER which uses an undergraduate's legs to advertise a Cambridge May Ball was banned from one college yesterday for being "degrading to women".

The poster, which features a James Bond figure wielding a banana instead of a gun, framed by the bare legs of a student model, was sent back to Selwyn College by King's. Sharmin Selvarajah, the women's officer, told them: "It cannot be displayed due to our policy of not allowing material we consider to be degrading to women on college premises."

May Ball organisers at Selwyn accused King's of political correctness and said the design was a parody of the poster for *Live and Let Die*. Anna Edmundson, student president, said: "You have a woman in a dominant position and it is sending up a man with a banana instead of a gun. Everyone is wondering who the model is and wishing they had legs like hers."

£2,000 fine for 'cures' from rare animals

By A Staff Reporter

A VIETNAMESE woman who sold remedies made from the bones of endangered species was fined £2,000 yesterday. Laryngitis pills with rhinoceros horn and sticking plasters containing ground tiger and leopard bones were stocked by Bang Hue Thi, 32, at her shop in Portsmouth.

Animal welfare groups welcomed one of the first prosecutions of its kind. Bang told *Portsmouth magistrates* that she had bought the remedies in Hong Kong for £500 and had not realised it was illegal to sell them in Britain.

Her lawyer, Graham Parr, said: "The laryngitis pills are the Chinese equivalent of paracetamol." Bang, who came to Britain in 1979, admitted four charges of trading goods made from endangered species.

Anthony Jones, for the prosecution, said: "If we can put a stop to the selling of such goods, bones from endangered species will not be needed so they will not be quite so endangered."

Tammy Marlar, of the charity Tusk Force, said: "We hope this will be the beginning of more such prosecutions as this is more widespread than people might imagine."

Tunes help you think more easily, tests show

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

TEACHING children music also encourages quicker and clearer reasoning, researchers have shown.

They believe that it modifies circuits in the brain, including some that have no obvious connection with music. "Music improves the hardware in the brain for thinking," said Gordon Shaw, of the University of California at *Irvine*.

He and colleagues tested the ability of 78 children between the ages of three and four to put together a simple jigsaw, *New Scientist* reports. One group had private piano lessons for ten minutes a day, as well as singing lessons. A second group had just the singing lessons, a third was given ten minutes of private computer tuition and the fourth no training at all.

After six months those who had learnt piano showed a 34 per cent improvement on the speed and accuracy with which they could solve the jigsaw. The other groups showed little change.

Dr Shaw said more music teaching should be put on the curriculum. "At the worst, the child would have learnt to play an instrument."

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For Dunblane massacre parents, 1996 ends today

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

THE father of Victoria Clydesdale knows that getting through the first anniversary of the Dunblane massacre will not be easy. Consequently, he has planned today carefully.

"I know what I'm doing," Charlie Clydesdale, 41, said. "I hope to be up at the school round about the time it happened, and I want to lay one red rose as near to there as I can. Then I'm going to go up to the cemetery."

His five-year-old daughter is buried there, alongside many of the other 15 children gunned down with their teacher by Thomas Hamilton on March 13 last year. "Getting over the hurdle of the birthdays and Christmas was bad enough," he said. "But coming to March was one of my main hurdles. I was wanting 1996 to end, but it does not really end until today."

His sentiments will find a place in the hearts of many other relatives of Hamilton's victims, who have asked that their deaths be remembered quietly and with dignity. They have requested that no special church or memorial services be held. Instead they have asked their friends and neighbours to place a single lighted candle in their windows at 7pm. It is a gesture that will be repeated in towns across Britain as people demonstrate their solidarity with the citizens of the small cathedral town.

Dunblane Primary School will open at 10.30am to allow friends and families of the bereaved, together with injured pupils and teachers, to pay their respects. A small group will lay a wreath at the site of the gymnasium, where Hamilton opened fire on the children. The building has been knocked down and replaced by a garden.

Don Monteith, spokesman for Stirling council, said: "Families and friends will be allowed to do what they want to do at the school. It will be up to them. We will open at 10.30 and we will make the day as routine as we can for the children. The plan at present is to close the school at the normal time."

Tributes, written and floral, have been arriving in the town. Yesterday the Pope added his blessing and prayers for the citizens. The Apostolic Nuncio, Luigi Barbarito, writing to the Bishop of Dunkeld, the Right Rev Vincent Logan, said: "On the anniversary of the Dunblane tragedy, on behalf of the Holy Father, I extend to all those affected his affectionate blessing together with a remembrance in his prayers."

Stirling council is asking for all floral tributes and cards to be directed to the cemetery. Gordon Jeyes, director of education for the council, said: "We want to avoid a build-up of flowers outside the school gates because we are all trying to make the day as routine as possible for the children."

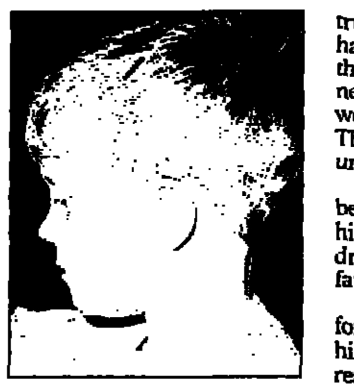
The Dunblane Fund, which now stands at around £5 million, will close in a fortnight. Money has already been distributed to the families of the bereaved and injured. The Educational Institute of Scotland has asked the country's 50,000 teachers to donate £1 to the Gwen Mayor Appeal, set up in the aftermath of the tragedy. Mrs Mayor was the teacher killed as she tried to protect her class. The fund which stands at over £50,000, will promote artistic, musical, sporting and cultural projects in Scottish primary schools. Contributions can be sent to the Royal Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh Castle Street Branch, sort code 83-18-44, account number 0118240.

Survivor who refuses to give up

COLL AUSTIN, who was among the worst injured in the Dunblane shootings, will be going to school as normal today. His father, Joe, is anxious that the day should not have too much significance for the boy who lost his sight and hearing on one side.

He said: "I don't want to make an issue of it. Kids don't mark time the way adults do. It does not hold any significance for them unless they see adults making an issue of it."

Coll, who is now six, was shot four times during Thomas Hamilton's rampage. He was one of the first to be hit and was lying injured when the gunman returned to him at the end of the massacre. The boy moved and Hamilton shot at close range into his back. Doctors did not expect him to survive the first night.



Coll Austin: lost sight and hearing on one side

His father said: "On the whole he has come through it better than I could have expected. He still looks forward. He has got hopes, ambitions. He has not given up."

Mr Austin, 31, who has two other young children, says the tragedy has revealed his son's true mettle: "I think the test has brought out the qualities that were there but they were never really very evident, they were never required to be. They had never been put under pressure like that."

Football-mad Coll refuses to be hampered by the damage to his sight and hearing, and still dreams of playing for his favourite team, Celtic.

"He says himself that he forgets he is blind in one eye," his father said. "There is no reason why partial blindness in one side should limit him. He has not allowed it to so far, he does not see it as any encumbrance to him in the future. Coll has enough self-esteem and confidence in himself that he will not allow other people's viewpoints to get to him. They might hurt initially but he has enough inner strength and resilience."

PAUL ELLIS

Eamonn McGlacken with Chance, a Jack Russell he saved from the Mersey with the aid of his digger bucket

Chance in a million

Mr McGlacken, 22, and Scott Ward, his workmate, were repairing the seawall at New Brighton when they heard Lorraine Kay's screams as the three-year-old terrier drifted away. With Mr Ward manoeuvring the bucket, Mr McGlacken was eventually able to grab Chance by the collar. He said: "The water was freezing cold. There have been too many deaths of people trying to rescue dogs, so we did not want to do anything stupid. I tried to get close enough to attract her. She still ignored me and we were getting desperate. Someone ran for a lifebelt and I threw it close to her. That did the trick and she swam towards it. When she was close enough I grabbed her." Mrs Kay had been taking Chance, her brother's dog, for a walk with her own two dogs. "I started screaming for help and the workmen came to my rescue. It was amazing. They used the digger like something out of *Thunderbirds*."

Health and Efficiency is back in the nudes

By Damian Whitworth

THE bible of the naturist movement, *Health & Efficiency*, which outraged readers when it slid downmarket into soft porn and then into receivership, has new owners and is promising to get back to basics.

H&E, as the magazine is now known, is 98 years old and used to be known for its pictures of smiling families playing volleyball in the nude. In recent years it has become a strictly top-shelf publication, but the new owners, who include a consortium of Yorkshire businessmen, insist that traditional naturists are to be welcomed back, even though the new issue includes a feature on body piercing as well as pages of naked models.

Helen Ludbrook, the editor, said: "We will be trying to get away from the girliness that has featured. We are reducing the number of models hugely, compared with the previous issues, and featuring people who enjoy the naked lifestyle."

At the Central Council for British Naturism there was scepticism yesterday. "We do get people inquiring about us after hearing about us through H&E. It comes into the office, but I don't read it," one member of staff said. "The front cover of the new issue is better but, flicking through, it looks the same."

Ms Ludbrook, who poses nude beneath this month's editorial, is not deterred. "We are trying to avoid the term naturism because it alienates a lot of people. We prefer 'naked lifestyle'," she said. "We missed only one issue and now we will be going back to our roots."

Weather-beaten landmark will be blown up

Marsden Rock before the elements destroyed the arch

By Paul Wilkinson

A COASTAL landmark is to be blown up because it has become a danger to the thousands of tourists who flock to see it each year.

Marsden Rock near South Shields was once a spectacular 100ft limestone arch carved by the sea. It has been a much-used backdrop for films set in the North East.

But in February last year, erosion caused the arch to collapse. Now, with the smaller of the two stacks crumbling dangerously, the National Trust, which owns it, has decided that it must come down for safety reasons. A demolition team will finish it off next week.

Tiffany Hunt, the trust's regional director, said: "We have been monitoring the stack since February last year and it is now apparent a collapse is inevitable within the next 12 months." She said the demolition was also being done now to avoid disrupting the breeding season of the rock's population of kittiwakes and cormorants.

Tom Fennelly, spokesman for South Tyneside council, said: "The larger of the two rocks will remain a very important natural feature of a very beautiful stretch of coastline."

More homes face flood peril

By Nick Nuttall

FIFTY years after the widespread flooding of 1947, scientists are claiming that the damage it caused to communities would be dwarfed by the devastation of such floods today.

In the postwar era, many low-lying areas have been used for housing: more than two million homes in the South East alone are under threat from flooding, the Environment Agency says. Climate changes have added to concern.

In 1947, at the end of a bitterly cold winter, heavy rains swept the country at the beginning of March, triggering a sudden thaw on ground frozen solid since January. Within days the major rivers of England as far north as Yorkshire had burst their banks. Some 300,000 hectares of land, an area about the size of Kent, were plunged under water. Conditions were worsened by 100mph winds.

Dr Geoff Mance, the Environment Agency's director of water management, yesterday announced 'planning guidelines to reduce development in vulnerable areas. He said the housing at risk in the flood plains of England and Wales covered about 1,000 square kilometres.

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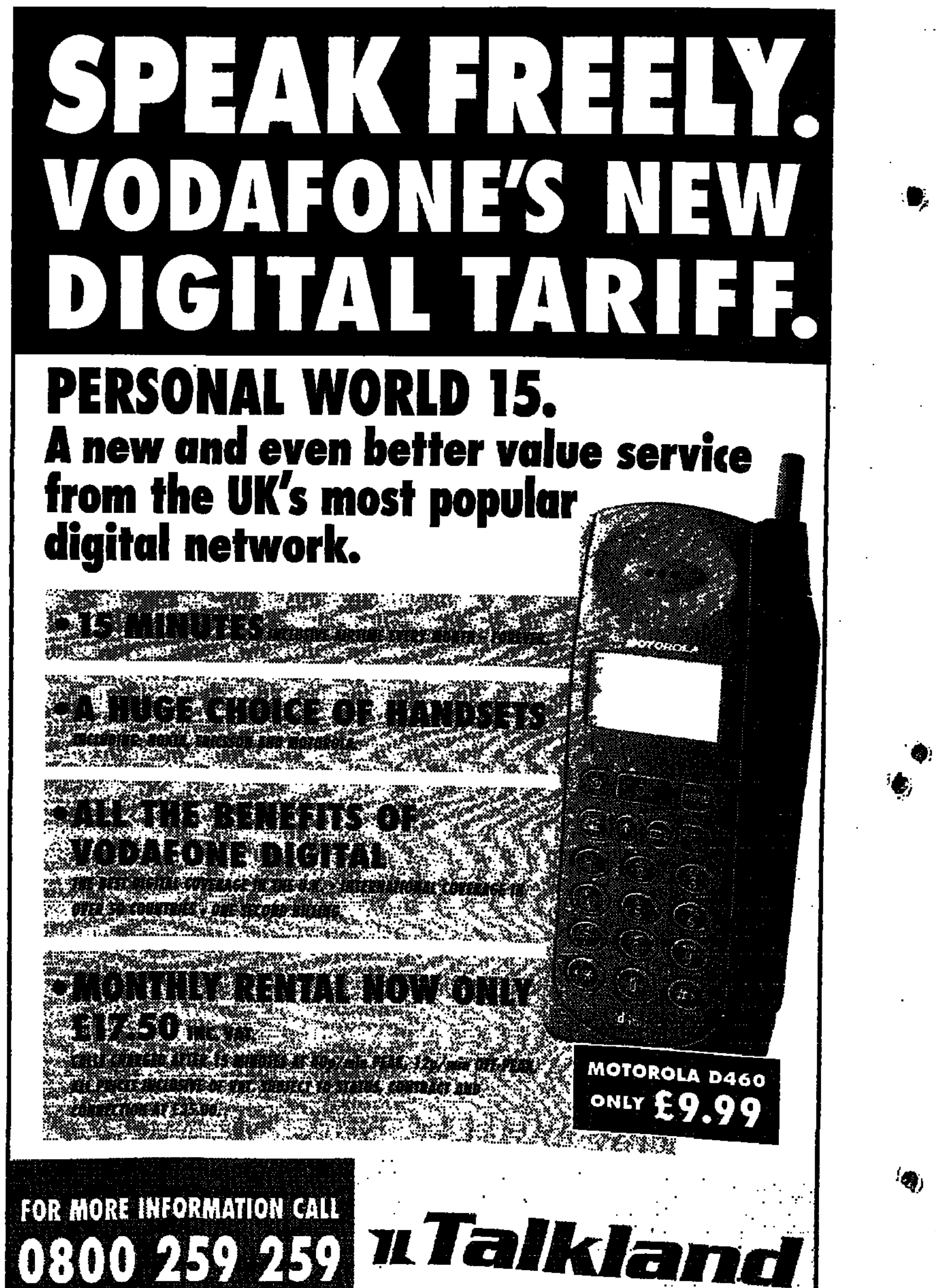

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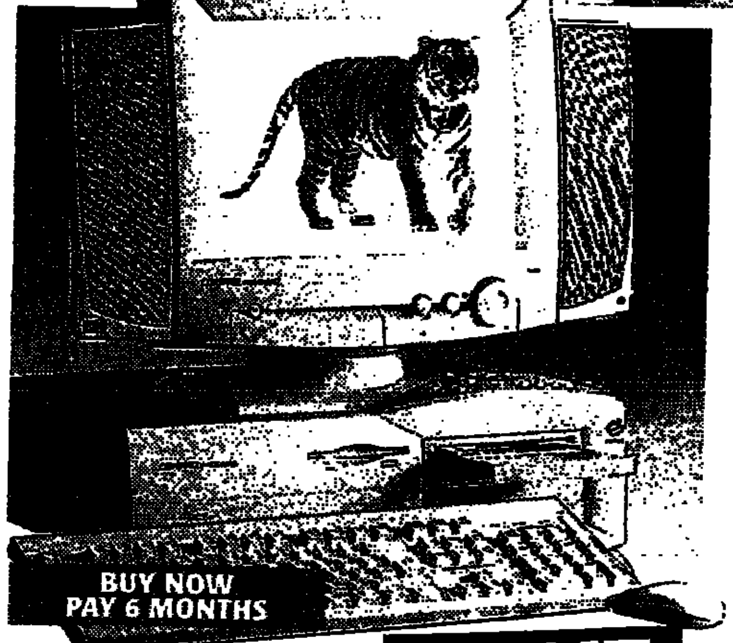

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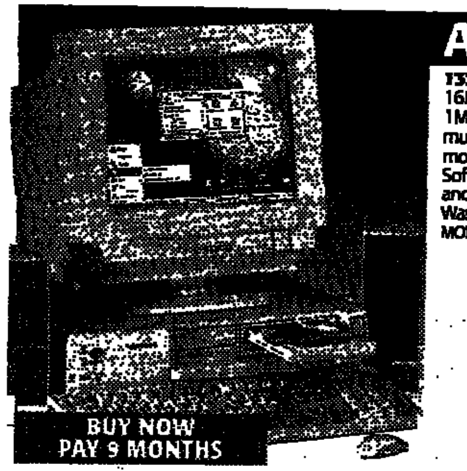

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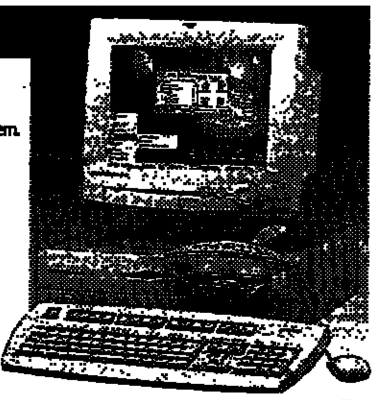

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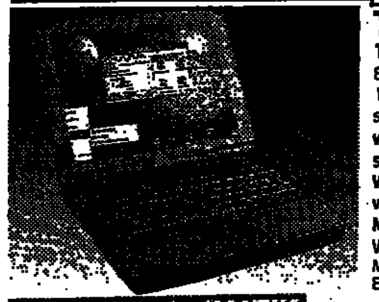

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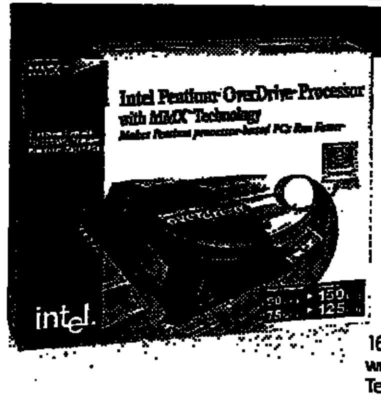

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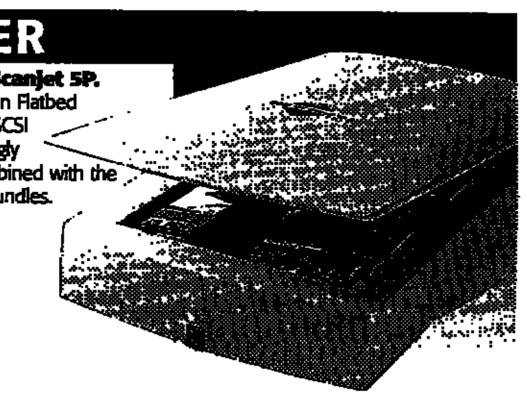

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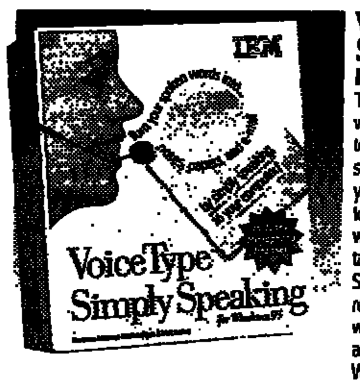

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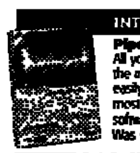

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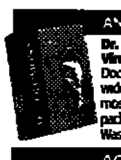

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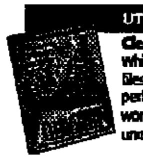

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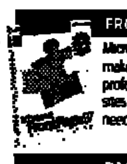

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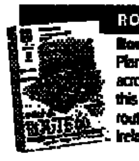

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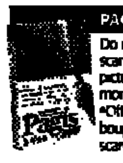

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Cloning scientists round up herd of 500 cattle embryos

By Nigel Hawkes, science editor

SCIENTISTS have produced nearly 500 identical cattle embryos in the first cloning "production line". The Australian team does not yet know if the embryos will result in pregnancies, but if they did it would be possible to produce an entire herd with identical genes.

The researchers at Monash University in Clayton, Victoria, believe that the technique may replace artificial insemination as a means of producing elite herds. The traditional method uses sperm from a high-quality bull to inseminate many cows. But the cows are likely to be of variable quality, producing a range of calves of differing standards. The Australian method should in principle enable a prize bull to fertilise a prize egg that could be multiplied to produce a herd.

Dr Alan Trounson of Monash, whose group is collaborating with the company Genetics Australia, first produces a single embryo from sperm and egg in a test tube.

The embryo is left to develop for four or five days, forming a blastocyst, a ball of cells that would normally implant into the wall of the womb. Up to 30 cells from the blastocyst are removed and fused with unfertilised egg cells that have had their own nuclear DNA removed.

Like the researchers at Roslin in Edinburgh, who cloned the sheep Dolly, the Australian team uses an electric current to combine the two. The identical embryos are grown and separated again by the same process, multiplying them still further. The eggs come from cow ovaries provided by abattoirs; the quality of the cow is immaterial as its DNA is removed.

So far, the researchers have concentrated on producing the multiple embryos rather than trying to create calves. Their record has been to produce 470 embryos from a single blastocyst. Bernie Harford, of Genetics Australia, told *New Scientist*: "We don't know of any other group being able to produce that many healthy cloned embryos." Combined with the Roslin technique, which has shown that cells from adult sheep can be cloned, the Australian method may make it possible to produce many copies of animals that have proved their value.

But the team has yet to show that all the huge number of embryos it has produced will produce healthy calves, a step other scientists have found tricky. The Australians have produced six calves from the early stages of the technique, but none from the cloned embryos.

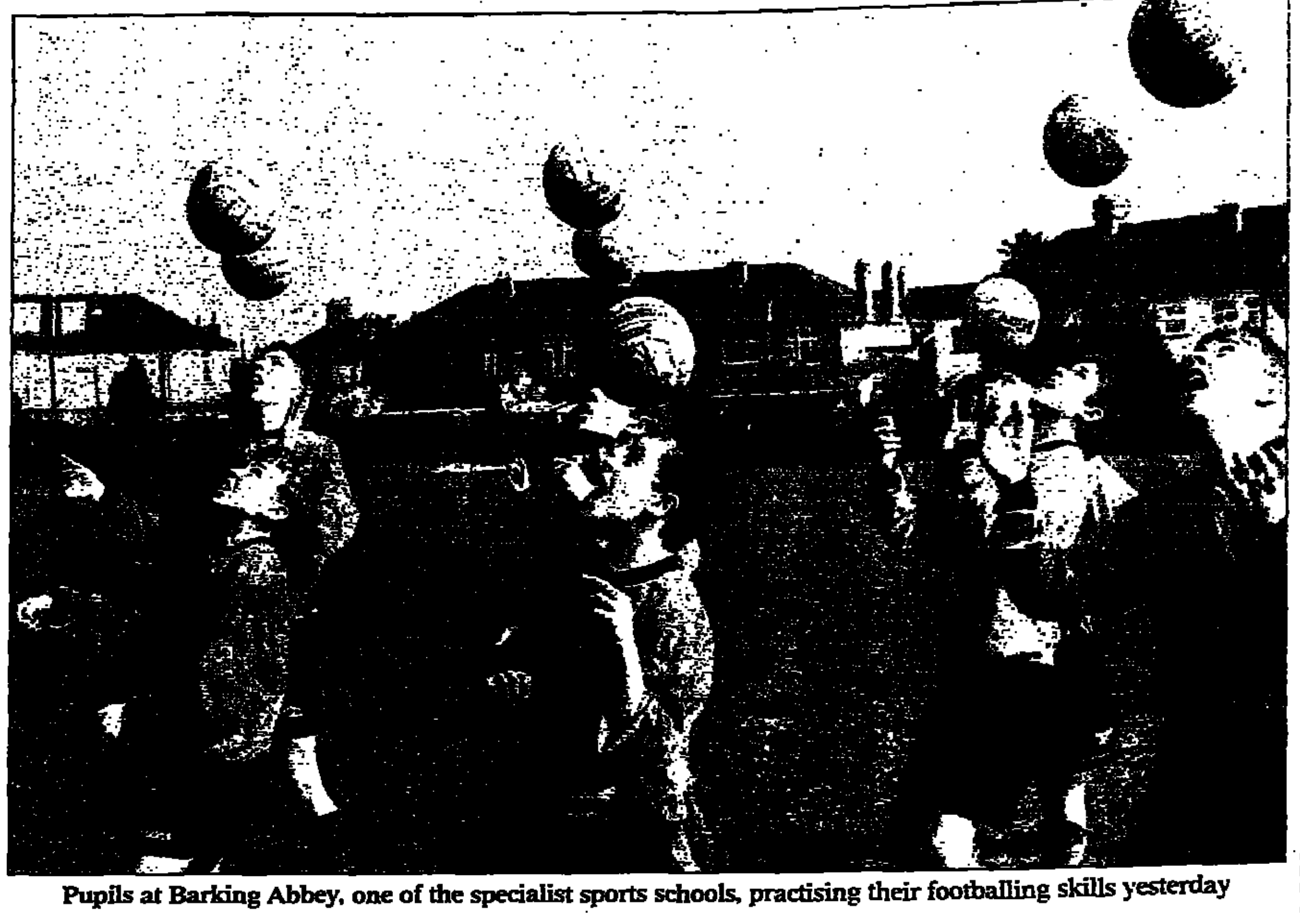
A leading French scientist says that the implications for humans of the Roslin technique are "staggering". Dr Axel Kahn, director of a French national laboratory for genetics research in Paris, says that there is no reason why human cloning should not work. The "fanatical desire of parents not simply to have children but to ensure these children carry their genes" may mean that it is used, he says in *Nature*.

A case in which public opinion might legitimise the use of cloning would be one where the father was sterile, he suggests. Allowing cloning to circumvent sterility might lead to it being tolerated in cases where it was imposed, for example, by authorities, he argues. There is no technical barrier against this, he says, only a moral one "originating from a reflection of the basis of our dignity".

Experiments defended

The British scientist who cloned a sheep defended his experiments before Congress yesterday as a limitless source of medical research, but said that the technique should not be used on humans (Tom Rhodes writes). Ian Wilmut, the chief embryologist who created Dolly at the Roslin Institute in Scotland, told a packed committee room that the inefficiency of cloning made it "inhumane" to experiment with people. But he said the technique could lead to the treatment of many diseases, including haemophilia and Parkinson's disease, and a greater understanding of human development.

CHRIS HARRIS



Pupils at Barking Abbey, one of the specialist sports schools, practising their footballing skills yesterday

£3m for schools to specialise in sport

By John Goodbody, sports news correspondent

NINE state schools were yesterday nominated as Britain's first sports and arts colleges in a national drive to raise standards and achieve international success.

A £3 million-plus package, supported jointly by the Government and private sponsors, will fund the building of facilities and the employment of staff in both the arts and physical education.

Cheryl Gillan, the Education Minister, said yesterday that she wanted to see the scheme extended. "I have seen what a struggle it is for pupils to get an education while trying to excel at sport or the arts. The Government wants to allow them to be able to do both."

The six sports and three arts colleges bring to 231 the number of specialist schools, which include 42 language and 180 technology colleges.

Tony Maxwell, the head teacher at Barking Abbey Comprehensive in east London, one of the six new sports colleges, said: "There is a danger in the eyes of the community of being seen as promoting sport, sport, sport. Pupils come here to learn and we do send 40 of them to university every year."

The school was national under-16 football champion in 1994 and finalist in the TSB English Schools' Cups in athletics and cross-country in each of the past five years.

It will now receive £360,000, £100,000 of which has been raised through personal contacts, thanks partly to the Youth Sport Trust, appointed by the Government to co-ordinate the scheme. The remainder will come from the Government.

Parkside Community College in Cambridge, one of the specialist arts colleges, has had £100,000 underwritten by a local personality, Peter Dawe, while it searches for sponsorship. Tim Bos, the principal, said that part of the money would be spent on furnishing an arts and media centre and establishing its own internal radio system.

The other specialist arts institutions are Theale Green School in Berkshire and Latimer School in Kettering, Northamptonshire. The sports colleges are: Beacon Community College in East Sussex; Burleigh Community College in Loughborough, Leicestershire; Oakbank School, Keighley, west Yorkshire; Siddal Moor High School, Rochdale, Manchester; and South Dartmoor Community College, Devon.

Schools Week, page 15
Bryant's Eye, page 42

St Patrick belongs to Ulster, say Orangemen

By Audrey Magee
Ireland correspondent

THE patron saint of Ireland, St Patrick, has been hijacked by nationalists who have turned him into a Roman Catholic legend, according to Unionists in Ulster.

The Orange Order today publish their version of St Patrick's story in the hope that the Government will make his day a national holiday in Northern Ireland. The Orangemen claim the 5th-century saint taught the Gospel around Ulster and seldom, if ever, went into what is now the Republic, where on Monday they celebrate his feast day.

Nelson McCausland, the author of the Orange Order's pamphlet *Patrick, Apostle of Ulster*, says that stories such as the saint's use of the shamrock to describe the Trinity were fabrications.

Mr McCausland said: "De Valera and Fianna Fail tried desperately hard to paint this vision of Ireland at the turn of this century as green, godly and Roman Catholic, and their distorted image of St Patrick fitted into this. Irish politicians and the Catholic Church hijacked him for their own nationalist propaganda."

Mr McCausland, an Ulster Unionist Belfast councillor and member of the St Patrick's Orange Lodge, said: "Patrick was God's man for Ulster, the Apostle of Ulster."

Charlie Doherty, a lecturer in ancient Irish history at University College, Dublin, accused the Orangemen of massaging history. "Their history only goes from the Battle of the Boyne onwards and what they want is a niche in the past."

Mother says nanny on murder charge is not heartless, just reserved

Woodward: hungry

From Quentin Letts
in Boston

THE mother of Louise Woodward, the British nanny accused of murdering an American baby, yesterday attacked the "harsh" Boston prison where her daughter is being held and said that America was mistaking her old-fashioned British reserve for heartlessness.

Sue Woodward, 40, complained that her daughter was being held in a small, basic cell in a prison full of drug dealers and roughnecks. "If it was England she would be kept away from known criminals," Mrs Woodward claimed.

Miss Woodward, 19, from Elton, Cheshire, has been charged with the first-degree murder last month of Matthew Eappen, the nine-month-old child she was looking after in suburban Boston. Miss Woodward faces life in prison if convicted.

Mrs Woodward said her daughter had daydreams of England, read the Bible and novels by Stephen King and often went hungry. As a vegetarian, she found that she could not eat much of the prison food.

"Louise is a committed Christian and is going to the prison church," said Mrs Woodward, who did not endear herself to Boston television reporters yesterday by refusing to produce tears in front of their cameras. Her daughter, similarly, has surprised American audiences with her calm demeanour at court hearings. In a country where public grief is cheap, she has come across as unconcerned. "Louise is an emotional person," insisted Mrs Woodward, "as emotional as I am, but you won't see me weeping and wailing. What does that achieve, shouting and crying and not being in possession of your thoughts?"

Mrs Woodward, who is taking it in turns with her husband, Gary, to visit Boston, sees her daughter every day. Miss Woodward had been working in Boston before going to university. Her mother said that she did not regret letting her travel to America. "You have to let children do their own thing," she said. "We consider Louise to be an adult. She's a very intelligent young woman who works things out for herself.

"Yes, in private she gets upset but she is more a person to weep silently. I believe in Louise and in her innocence. I know she's incapable of doing anything to harm anybody." The death of a close friend five years ago had left Louise with difficulties in dealing with bereavement, Mrs Woodward said, but she insisted that her daughter was grieving for Matthew.

Mrs Woodward praised the people of Boston for the kindness they had shown her. Her daughter had received many letters in prison from local people, and encouragement from home. "The whole village has come out in support," Mrs Woodward said. She added that she nonetheless felt that, as a non-American, her daughter was at a disadvantage in the case.

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Youngsters challenged to create projects that combat crime and despair

Frances Lawrence launches awards in head's memory

By Richard Ford, home correspondent

THE widow of the murdered headmaster Philip Lawrence launched an annual award scheme in his memory yesterday. Frances Lawrence called for more action to halt violent crime among disaffected youth.

She urged young people to accept the challenge offered by the awards and to work to make the world a better place. The scheme will award up to £1,000 to winners who have helped their communities with such projects as crime prevention, tackling drugs or combatting racial harassment.

Mrs Lawrence met young men and women from six areas whose work was displayed as examples of projects that could win the award next December. She said at the launch in central London: "I would like to see what more can be done to halt the growth of violent crime among the disaffected youth which reverberates throughout the whole of our society."

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, said the scheme showed it was possible to take something meaningful and positive from the death of Mr Lawrence, who was murdered when he intervened in a fight outside his school in Maida Vale, northwest London. He said: "The very existence of the award means that love and hope can triumph over hate and fear. We all owe it to the memory of Philip Lawrence to do what we can to help others and ourselves to live our lives in the best way we can."

He said that too often society heard only about the crimes and misdemeanours of the young. "But the vast majority of people are law-abiding. Most have a strong moral sense and many already give freely their time and energy to improve the lives of others." Others supporting the launch included the ITV newsreader Trevor McDonald.

Lawrence: murdered outside his school

Sample projects were demonstrated by youngsters from Braunton School and Community College, Devon who produced a video showing how people are affected by crime; Diss High School Youth Action Group, Norfolk, who worked on a drugs education project; and Tredegar Comprehensive School, South Wales, whose video highlighted the dangers of joyriding.

Sixthformers from Sandy Upper School and Community College, Bedfordshire, described their home-watch scheme; Newmartin Community Youth Trust in Newham, east London, told of its drop-in centre dealing with race and crime prevention; and Network Young People's Forum, Hertfordshire, said it had raised £175,000 to convert an old courthouse at Hitchin into a drop-in centre for young people.

☐ *Nominations for the award must be submitted by September 10 on forms from the Home Office, Stephen Lawrence Awards, Room 938, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT, or on the Internet at http://homeoffice.gov.uk/lawrence.htm*

PETER NICHOLLS

Mrs Lawrence, her son Lucien, Mr McDonald and Mr Howard at the launch

Village searches for Oates family to mark anniversary

By Joanna Bale

RESIDENTS of a village where the Antarctic explorer Captain Lawrence Oates once lived are trying to trace members of his family for a remembrance service on the eighty-fifth anniversary of his death.

It will be held at St Mary's church, Gestingthorpe, Essex on Sunday near Gestingthorpe Hall, the Georgian home of the Oates family at the beginning of the century. Captain Oates won his place in British legend on the doomed Scott expedition to the South Pole in 1912. Badly frostbitten and fearing he was slowing his colleagues down, he left their tent with the words: "I am going outside; I may be some time."

The family house was sold when Captain Oates's mother died. The last member of the family to live in the village died nearly 20 years ago. Tony Dagnall, a churchwarden and retired university physicist, said: "Captain Oates was a great hero. He was a soldier, explorer and adventurer and a truly brave man.

"His family were well-liked and respected by everyone in the village. His mother was a tough determined woman, and boys and men in the village used to doff their caps to her.

"The family paid for the bells to be restored in the church and they had to be rung until Mrs Oates had walked from her home opposite and passed through the lich-gate. No one went hungry while she lived at the hall.

"Her son was regarded as a local hero. When he got back from the Boer War there was a real welcome-home party, with bunting and a huge celebration.

"We would love to invite someone from the Oates family back to the village for the service. But we don't know how to find them."

An anonymous descendant of Captain Oates sold his Bible at Christie's for £6,000 last September. A spokeswoman for Christie's declined to help yesterday. She said: "We cannot reveal the vendor's identity or even pass on letters to him. It is confidential."

Oates: home sold when his mother died

Media asked to jog memories of murder

POLICE have invited reporters and camera crews to the scene of a five-month-old murder in the hope of jogging the memories of potential witnesses (Paul Wilkinson writes).

The killing of Geoffrey Leeming in the garage of his bungalow as his wife watched *Coronation Street* is North Yorkshire Police's only unsolved murder.

Since the night Mr Leeming was stabbed with a carving knife at his home in Haxby, near York, it has been unoccupied. His widow, Jackie, and her daughter live in York.

Mr Leeming would have been 64 last Saturday. His body remains in a mortuary, available for future examination if required.

Mrs Leeming said yesterday: "It wasn't fair how he died and it's not fair he has to wait so long before he can rest in peace. It is for this reason that I ask the public for help again."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Paper faces charge for contempt

The Attorney-General is seeking leave to bring contempt proceedings against the *Evening Standard* over an article that led to the collapse of the Whitemoor prison breakout trial. Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, wants to sue Associated Newspapers, the *Standard*'s publisher, and Max Hastings, its Editor.

Proceedings at Woolwich Crown Court were stopped after the newspaper published an article that identified three of the six defendants as convicted IRA men, in contravention of an order imposed by the judge.

Tree theft case

Obee Eastwood, of Chatham, Kent, has been charged with the theft of nearly 800 cherry trees from Lord Kingsdown, former Governor of the Bank of England and the High Sheriff of Kent. Some 350 of the trees have been recovered.

Police payout

Robert Downie, 38, a former RAF technician from Ayr who was assaulted by a police officer before being wrongfully arrested, has won £5,550 in damages from Strathclyde Police at the Court of Session in Edinburgh.

Stowaways found

Thirteen illegal Asian immigrants were found in the luggage hold of a coach arriving at Ramsgate from Dunkirk. The driver and a passenger have been charged at Thanet Magistrates' Court and remanded in custody.

Free to glow

Ponies and donkeys roaming wild in the New Forest, Hampshire, are to be fitted with reflective collars in an attempt to reduce the number of night-time accidents involving heavy traffic in the area.

Helium death

Sergeant Peter Everett, 47, of Barry police, Vale of Glamorgan, died from a heart attack after inhaling helium gas from a balloon during a party trick on a night out. An inquest was adjourned at Taunton, Somerset.

Out with the old

The word "pensioner" has become outdated and "fails Britain's new breed of dynamic retirees", according to the Norwich Union, which is challenging the public to think of a better name. Ring 0645 330645 with suggestions.

Natural support

A woman who runs an animal sanctuary in Bristol is ensuring the survival of an pipistrelle bat by keeping it inside her bra. Diana Desmond, 37, said the bat needed a "warm environment with natural movement".

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Dixons
There's a great deal going on

Dorrell offers voucher scheme for elderly care

By Jill Sherman and Dominic Kennedy

ELDERLY people would be offered vouchers to pay for private residential care under the most radical reorganisation of social services for 25 years, Stephen Dorrell announced yesterday.

The Health Secretary outlined a series of measures to expand choice, including the selling off of old people's homes — raising more than £1 billion — and extending the principle of nursery vouchers to residential care.

If the Tories are re-elected all elderly people with assets of less than £10,000 could be eligible for vouchers covering the full cost of nursing or residential care, after an initial assessment of their need. Those with greater assets would get a voucher to meet part of the costs on a sliding scale.

They would then have the choice of using the voucher to buy care at one of a number of homes in their local area or to move to another area, where perhaps they had relatives.

The scheme is being piloted in Bradford and a White Paper published yesterday makes clear that the Government would remove any legal obstacles that prevent an extension of the scheme nationwide.

Elderly people would also be able to move to a more expensive home if they supplemented the local council provision with their own money.

These measures add to Mr Dorrell's announcement this week to give elderly people an incentive to insure against the costs of residential care.

Under the proposals in the White Paper, *Social Services: Achievement and Challenge*, more than 2,500 council-run elderly people's homes would be sold or closed, affecting 76,000 people. "This is a White Paper that seeks to set the framework for social services for the next 10 to 15 years," Mr Dorrell said.

Chris Smith, the Shadow Health Secretary, immediately condemned the scheme. "This amounts to the enforced privatisation of those relatively small parts of residential care not already carried out by the private or voluntary sector," he said. "You are making an automatic assumption that the private sector is always good and the public sector always bad. This whole White Paper represents the triumph of dogma over common sense."

Mr Dorrell wants to transform the role of local authority social services departments from providers of care to purchasers of care. He believes that allowing the private and voluntary sectors to take over many care services will improve quality and save money.

Dorrell: proposes sell-off of council-run homes

The local authority social services departments, which were created in 1971 by merging the former children's, health and welfare sections of town halls, would be drastically slimmed down. They would be likely to provide hands-on care only for the most difficult children, who could not be placed in foster homes.

Their main role would be to assess the needs of the elderly, disabled and handicapped, and to purchase services from private companies, charities or institutions such as housing associations.

The Government has decided against privatising the few children's homes that remain, in the light of abuse scandals that have emerged in recent years.

The White Paper makes self-help, family loyalty and neighbourliness the bedrock of reforms that are designed to last 25 years but which will be implemented only if the Tories win the election. It says the Government believes that "responsible individuals should plan to meet their own needs and that every encouragement should be given to family and friends who are willing to act as carers of those who are unable to provide for themselves".

By diverting the elderly and disabled towards voluntary carers, social services would be able to concentrate most of its spending on the hardest cases, such as the particularly frail or disabled, drug addicts and alcoholics.

Under a Social Services Reform Bill, local authorities would be forced to sell or close their elderly people's homes unless they could prove that there was no suitable private alternative in the area.

A survey commissioned by Mr Dorrell found that local authority homes were £50 per resident more expensive to run than private ones at £283 per week in 1994-95. But a recent Audit Commission study in Stockport found that people were "very well served by their social services".

The savings released should be enough to buy an extra 10,000 places for elderly people in care homes, according to Paul Saper, a partner in the industry analysts Laing & Buisson.

But Help the Aged said that there would have to be stringent safeguards. "Quality must not be sacrificed to costs in the pursuit of cheaper services."

ALAN WELLER

Chai Patel went into business believing that state care for the old was inadequate. His company is worth £64 million

Doctor put business idea into practice

By Dominic Kennedy
SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

CHAI PATEL, a former hospital doctor, is one of the entrepreneurs who would like to compete for a slice of the £6.2 billion market in care for the elderly envisaged by the Government.

Last year, less than a decade after he hung up his stethoscope to go into the residential care business, his company, Court Cavendish, was valued at £64 million when it merged with a rival. The new company, TC Group, provides more than 12,000 beds.

At 42, Dr Patel lives in a thatched house in Surrey and has a chauffeur-driven car. He decided to go into business after working on NHS geriatric wards. "You could see in the mid-1980s that provision for elderly people was clearly not adequate," he said.

Dr Patel's company leases elderly people's homes from local authorities, invests money to improve them and receives a weekly rate per bed. He has just won the largest such contract, a £10 million investment deal that will provide 560 beds in Bedfordshire.

American companies are wary about entering the British market because the strict inspection regime makes it hard to make big profits and the local authorities that buy much of the care often run short of money. Even with the reforms, councils are regarded as an unsafe business bet.

The vast majority of the 23,000 elderly people's homes are small, family-type businesses, run by ex-nurses like Ann Barton, 53, who employs 80 staff at two homes in Chippenham, Wiltshire. Mrs Barton and her husband have invested more than £1 million in their business, which provides 58 beds for residents with Alzheimer's disease. "I wasn't happy with the way that people with dementia were treated in hospital," she said. "They were put in with people who had mental illness. I wanted to set up on my own and was immediately fairly successful."

Speaker has last word on pagers

By James Landale, political reporter

THE Speaker banned MPs yesterday from using electronic pagers to jog the memory while speaking in the House of Commons. Betty Boothroyd said that it was unacceptable for MPs to be prompted by people outside the Chamber who might be watching proceedings on television.

The ruling came after a Labour MP used a message on his pager to raise a point of order on Tuesday. Brian Wilson, a deputy to Peter Mandelson in Labour's campaign team, was informed by a party researcher that a Tory MP, John Greenway, had failed to declare a financial interest when asking John Major a question.

Miss Boothroyd said that any member seen using a pager while addressing the House would be told to sit down immediately. "Yesterday, a Member used an electronic device to raise a point of order. He appeared to be receiving the information on a small screen relating it from outside the chamber. I strongly deprecate such practice. For any Member to be prompted in this way by an outside group is totally unacceptable.

"I can have no objection to instruments which merely vibrate to attract the attention of the bearer. Provided they are silent I can have no objection to such devices and even if I had an objection I could not prevent Members from bringing them into the Chamber.

"I am not, however, prepared to accept the use of such instruments as an *aide-mémoire* by a Member who is addressing this House."

The ruling also applies to Commons committees. Mr Wilson said that he would respect and abide by it. The incident had been a one-off in which it had been necessary for him to react swiftly to make a point of order. But he added: "[The Speaker] seems to have said that MPs can receive information but not use it. I am not sure how enforceable that is."

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Albanian rebels load themselves with firearms but a few bullets put them to flight

Secret police bring swift end to town's riotous carnival

In Albania's anarchy, even the army seems not to know which side it is on, **Thomas Walker** reports from Elbasan

AT NINE in the morning, the people of Elbasan begin to queue: 200 outside the offices of the collapsed pyramid operator, Gjeri, and 200 outside the local military arsenal at Mjeks.

Those hoping for their money back should know better by now, but for anyone wanting a gun — Kalashnikov, machinegun, pistol, whatever — the message is, hurry while stocks last.

A fresh-faced young soldier with a passing resemblance to the England cricket captain shrugs his shoulders and opens the gates. "I am not doing anything," he says.

The stampede is on. In something of a family occasion, ten-year-olds to septuagenarians grab what they can while the cream of the Albanian military stands around grinning. A child grapples in frustration with his bolt-action rifle, giving a delighted squawk as it discharges into the gnarled bark of a nearby olive tree. His elder brother, all of 12, is weighed down by four Kalashnikovs. Grandad brings up the rear with two more rifles and a healthy stock of ammunition clips.

The sun is out in the dusty barrack square, and Albania's surreal revolution has taken another faltering step north towards the capital.

"One — Berisha kaput!" says a black balaclava going by the name of Will, eagerly shaking our hands and jabbing at our notebooks. "Two — money back! My English not so good. I am doctor, country pathologist."

He makes sure our jottings are in order, poses for a few Che Guevara-style photographs and suddenly rushes off down the hill to catch up with fleeing comrades.

But something goes awry — that much is clear, as a barrage of distinctly non-celebratory automatic fire fizzes through the leaves overhead. The newly arrived senior military commander grabs the bemused international press corps and shoves it inside the ammunition store. Pointing to the deserted barrack square, he combines a chopping motion at his throat with a wagging of the finger: semaphore, it seems, for the arrival of the Shik secret police, somewhere on the slopes behind.

A lull in the firing, and moaning is distinguishable in some bushes 50 yards across the now highly uncertain territory of the square. Our pathologist insurgent has taken a hit. "This in not logic, these are stupid youngsters," says the army commander, now angry. A soldier is helping Will across no-man's-land, but after a warning shout both are again prone in the dust.

The firing is louder, closer. Mickey, an Austrian Reuters photographer, automatically grabs for a calming cigarette. "I don't think that would be such a good idea," advises Maria, an Argentine writer, with an anxious glance sideways at boxes of ammunition scattered all about. A bullet has torn into Will's left calf muscle; a tourniquet stems the blood and his damaged leg is propped on a wooden crate. He gulps at a jug of water, and Maria provides some painkillers. The balaclava is off and he is ashen-faced, his revolution over. After 20 tense minutes a Shik officer in tell-tale leather jacket struts into view and receives the all-clear from his walkie-talkie. We creep up the driveway to the gates, heads bowed, hands aloft, uncertain of who fires at whom, and why, in a society that is fast falling apart.

Outside, police, military and Shik officers stand with a variety of weaponry and no obvious co-ordination. Will is bundled into a black police Fiat Tipo and driven away. Our taxi driver is nowhere to be seen.

We find him 100 yards down the road, badly shaken. He has been beaten by the Shik and had two guns put to his head. How was it that he brought journalists here just at the right moment, they wanted to know. They took his keys, but fortunately he has a spare and we depart from Mjeks without a backward look. High on the winding mountain pass overlooking Elbasan's redundant Chinese steelworks, there is a pause for coffee and reflection at a windswept café decorated with fox pelts and chewing gum adverts.

"From now on, no more trips outside Tirana," says our taxi driver. "I go to the airport, that is all." Mickey the photographer is looking puzzled.

He says: "I need help with the caption. 'Sheltering from police fire, a soldier helps a wounded rebel who has just stolen guns from the base he is not guarding' ... but this, I think, is not understandable to anyone outside Albania."

MICHAEL LECKEL / REUTER

An Albanian soldier comes under secret police fire as he tries to help Will, whose short revolutionary career was ended by a bullet in the leg

Letters, page 19

'Avenging angel' repels looters at British-backed hospital

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN SARANDE, SOUTHERN ALBANIA

A BRITISH-FUNDED hospital was one of the buildings to be looted in the southern Albanian port of Sarande as rival gangs continue to skirmish for control of the streets and armed mobs roam on looting sprees, breaking into private homes and government buildings at will.

The nearly completed 100-bed St Luke's Children's Hospital has taken five years to build, relying on donations from Children in Distress, a British charity. On Tuesday night ten armed men broke in and began to loot medical stocks and electrical appliances. The hospital's saviour seemed to have appeared straight from a film set. Responding to a call from armed watchmen inside the hospital, Ani Permati, a 6ft 4in basketball player, donned a trench coat, gathered his six-man gang, slid a heavy machinegun and Kalashnikov over his shoulder, and raced round in a van. He caught the looters off-guard, blazing away with the machinegun like an avenging angel ...

The thieves fled in disarray, dropping most of their spoils. The scene was repeated in innumerable variations elsewhere. In Gjirokaster bank staff became embroiled in a gunbattle with a gang which was after the safe; teenagers stormed an old people's home in the town, robbing patients at gunpoint; private houses were looted everywhere; there were sniping incidents on the Greek border; in Sarande five women were said to have been raped overnight by armed marauders; journalists were fired on near Delvine.

As Sarande's inhabitants woke, many began to question their support for the uprising. The daily meeting of townsfolk demanding President Berisha's resignation turned into a protest against gangs. Staff from both hospitals, joined by scores of residents, marched demanding an end to the lawlessness and seeking protection for government buildings. "Berisha is a dictator and has brought us disaster, but what is happening now is even worse," said one doctor.

The unrest plays into the hands of the President, who may yet survive if he can portray the rebels as criminal gangs. Perhaps that is why Colonel Xhevat Kocin, head of Sarande's rebel committee, sought to underplay the problem at a press conference yesterday. Announcing the National Committee for the People's Salvation, comprising representatives from each town in the rebel South, he said: "Every country has its thieves. Ours happen to be armed but they will face the law tomorrow."

The committee is the first cohesive political body linking the insurgents. It reiterated demands for the resignation of Mr Berisha, and requested participation with government and opposition members in talks preceeding a coalition interim Government and early parlimentary elections.

But already rebel leaders are threatening to keep their weapons until they see the nature of any new government. It seems that little short of a foreign intervention force could end southern Albania's lawless limbo.

Raiders hit arsenals

TIRANA'S military academy was raided yesterday amid growing tension in the capital and clear signs that the Albanian Army has given up guarding military arsenals (Tom Walker writes).

Unlike in the South, where insurgents have snapped up weapon stockpiles, the break-in appears to have been the work of northern police or paramilitaries loyal to President Berisha. No attempt was made to stop the raiders.

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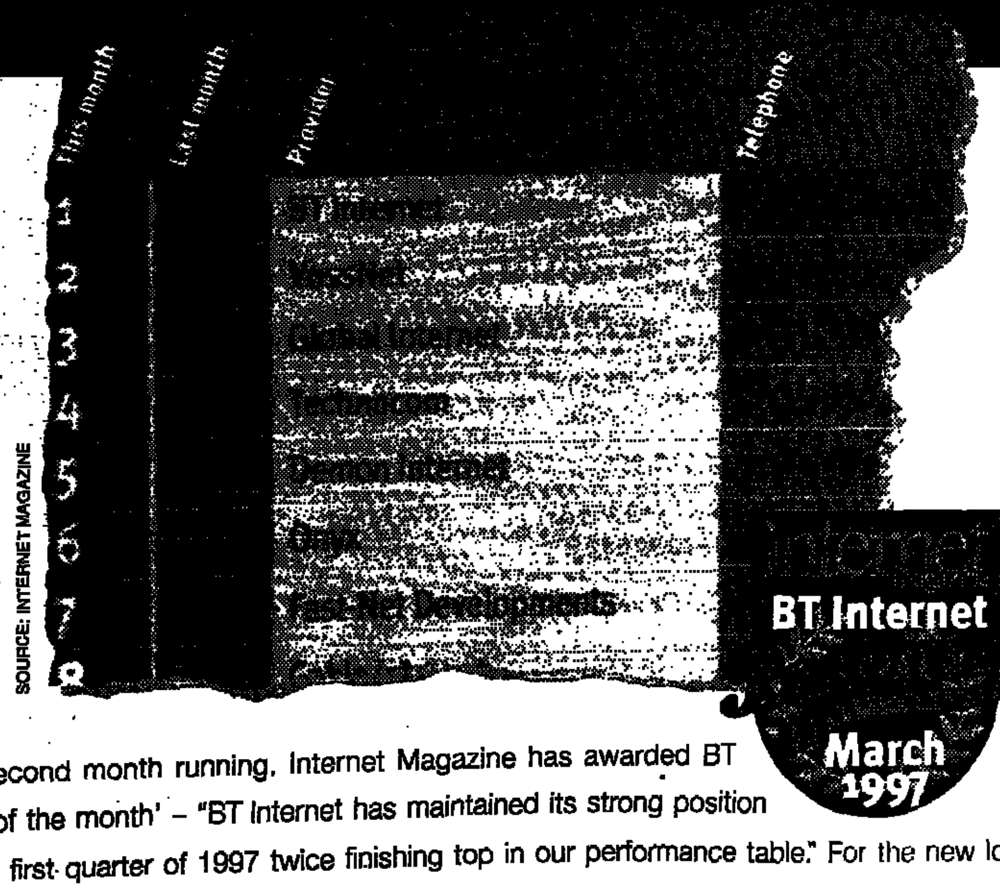
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French plan intervention force to prevent capture of Kisangani by rebels

Paris claims humanitarian motives in Zaire but it continues to support President Mobutu, **Sam Kiley** and **Ben Macintyre** write

REINFORCED by Moroccan and Serb mercenaries, government forces yesterday prepared to defend Kisangani against rebel insurgent attacks while French diplomats began to lay the ground for military intervention by French troops to prevent the city's fall.

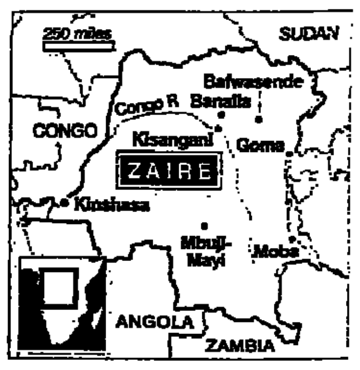
According to senior European diplomats in Kinshasa, French emissaries under orders from the Elysée Palace have hinted that "it might be necessary to secure Kisangani airport to allow aid deliveries to Rwandan Hutu refugees". The refugees are gathering in Ubundu, 50 miles south of Kisangani, on the River Congo. This week Xavier Emmanuelli, the French Minister of State with responsibility for Emergency Humanitarian Action, who visited the tens of thousands of civilian refugees and the extremist Hutu militia mixed among them, insisted "security" for refugees was paramount. He did not trust Laurent Kabila, the rebel leader, to allow them safe passage back to Rwanda.

A Western intelligence source in Kinshasa, Zaire's capital, said: "There are clear signals that the French are considering sending in their own troops [based in the nearby Central African Republic]. Their argument is that, if Kisangani's airport falls into rebel hands, it will not be possible to get aid to the refugees ... A side effect would be to block the rebel advance."

Yves Doutriaux, the French Foreign Ministry spokesman, said yesterday: "If a ceasefire does not take hold soon, then we will again have to consider sending a [military] force." France's latest attempt to elicit American backing for intervention, during talks in Brussels with George Moose, the Assistant Secretary of State for African Development, came to nothing on Tuesday. America "is not prepared right now to sign on to a multinational force," a State Department spokesman said.

According to French news reports, Paris is now considering a joint operation with French, Belgian, Dutch and Egyptian troops. President Chirac has accused the international community of "a conspiracy of silence" over the refugees' plight.

"The humanitarian situation in Zaire is tragic. No one can ignore it any more. No one can remain indifferent," the President said earlier this week.



The French Government has continued to voice support for President Mobutu, Zaire's ailing dictator, while condemning Mr Kabila as the tool of Rwanda and Uganda.

As fighting continued in Zaire, both sides said they had clashed between 20 and 50 miles from Kisangani. The Government said 35 rebels had been killed in an ambush, allegedly set by the mercenaries, on a road east of the city.

More worrying for people is that Kisangani has been ringed with mines — preventing the rebels getting in and disgruntled soldiers and civilians leaving. First victims of the mines were two peasants. One man was killed and another lost a leg.

So far rebels have taken almost a third of Zaire but Kisangani represents the most prized target. To try to put backbone into the Government's defences, Zaire has hired up to 300 Serb mercenaries, augmented recently with Moroccans. Léon Kengo wa Dondo, the Zairean Prime Minister, said yesterday: "We will defend Kisangani because it is the central point in the war." But he admitted his army was unlikely to be up to the task and announced yesterday the formation of large brigades of "citizens' defence units".

In Kisangani, people said the army was blatantly anti-government and many officers and junior ranks were openly discussing defecting to the rebels. "The city is quiet, but many people are complaining that the rebels are taking too much time to get here," one Kisangani source added.

Six killed as Zulu marchers protest over massacre

From Inigo Gilmore in Johannesburg

UP TO six people were killed in townships around Johannesburg yesterday and shots were fired in the city centre as thousands of Zulus marched to commemorate the third anniversary of the Shell House massacre.

Police reported that, before the march began, two men had been shot dead at a hostel in Soweto where two people were also wounded in shootings and two buses were burnt. Other violent incidents, including the killing of a 15-year-old boy, were reported in other townships in the Vaal Triangle as thousands of hostel dwellers headed to the city centre by bus, train and car.

At a rally in the Library Gardens in central Johannesburg a man in the massed ranks of Zulu marchers, allegedly aligned to the Inkatha Freedom Party, began firing into the air. As shots rang out, demonstrators among the estimate 18,000 crowd fled along nearby streets as policemen took up positions behind parked cars.

As screaming men and women scattered in every direction, shopkeepers pulled down shutters and office workers, observing the scene from windows above, ducked behind desks. After the brief burst of gunfire ended, police moved in, arrested two men and seized two handguns. Nine people were later treated for gunshot wounds.

Mandela: accused of cover-up over deaths

Earlier, Zulu men and women, wielding rawhide shields, knobkerries and spears, and many in traditional dress and Inkatha colours, had converged on meeting points on the edge of the city centre before moving on to the central business district. Under close supervision by *indunas* (headmen), the demonstrators ululated and surged forward in mock battle formations, chanting their defiance of a ban on the carrying of traditional weapons imposed by the ANC Government last year.

The marchers were commemorating 1994's Shell House killings when African National Congress gunmen shot dead eight Inkatha supporters — marching in support of the Zulu king — outside the ANC's Johannesburg headquarters, while more than 50 were killed in and around the city.

To date no one has been prosecuted in connection with the massacre which has become a festering sore in relations between Inaktha and the ANC. President Mandela admitted he gave the order to shoot and he has been accused of a cover-up.

With police helicopters clattering overhead, the demonstrators were flanked by hundreds of heavily armed police as they marched through the city. At the front of the crowd two men carried a banner calling for Mr Mandela to be brought before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission which is investigating apartheid-era crimes. Alongside them an *induna* in animal skins beat his shield with a wooden club while leading the boisterous crowd in singing battle songs.

Arriving at the Library Gardens, the crowd grew more belligerent as their leaders, including Themba Khoza and Humphrey Ndlovu, firebrand regional Ikantha MPs, led them chanting anti-ANC slogans. Loud cheers went up when Prince Vanana Zulu called for Mr Mandela to be prosecuted. As they later dispersed shots were again heard and police said some demonstrators attempted to loot shops.

JUDA NGWENYA / REUTER

Thousands of Zulus, many carrying traditional weapons, gather in Johannesburg yesterday to mark the Shell House massacre three years ago

The former ruling National Party also used the anniversary to attack the ANC over the slow pace of investigations. A party spokesman said: "It is totally unacceptable that there is no certainty as to what happened during the Shell House massacre and who was responsible." The Gauteng Attorney-General's office said yesterday that an inquest into the deaths of 19 people killed in the massacre had been set down for April 7.

News of the latest killings weakened the rand and local bonds, but markets calmed later as dealers digested the first budget by Trevor Manuel, the Finance Minister. In it he boosted crime-fighting with an increase of 20 per cent spending on police while slashing defence and health budgets.

Mr Manuel also announced the easing of the country's strict exchange control regulations. From July 1 residents will be able to invest a limited amount directly abroad or hold foreign currency deposits with South African banks. Companies will also be given increased freedom to invest overseas and will be able to raise foreign funding on the strength of their South African balance sheets.

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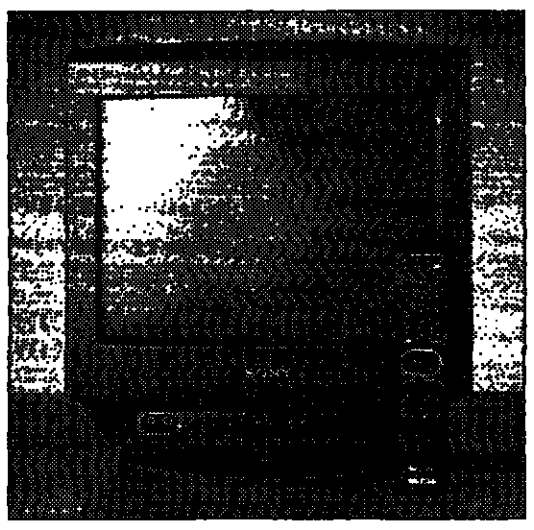

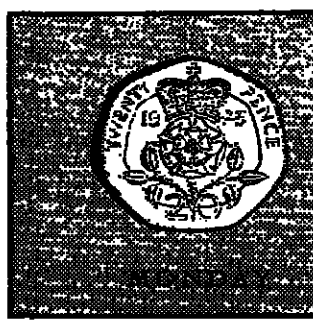

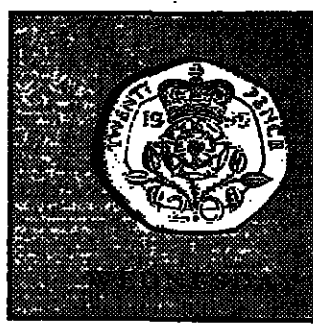

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Legal & General

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Netanyahu: furious

Arafat summit angers Israel

By Christopher Walker in Jerusalem

THE Israeli Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, yesterday went on the offensive against world criticism of his settlement policies and described a Palestinian conference in Gaza on Saturday to be attended by American, European and Arab diplomats as a breach of the 1993 peace process.

The decision of America to attend the meeting called by Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian President, "to protect the peace process and to face the breaching of the agreement by the Israelis" was seen as a signal of the Clinton Administration's displeasure with recent Israeli moves over the occupied West Bank and east Jerusalem.

Mr Netanyahu's outspoken attack on the Palestinians for that and other breaches of the peace deal came as the crisis between Israel and the Arab world was worsening. Shimon Peres, the opposition Labour leader, accused the right-wing Prime Minister of uniting "the entire world" against Israel.

Last night a new threat of violence came with a pledge by Avigdor Kahalani, Israel's Interior Security Minister, to close four Palestinian offices in Jerusalem. He said Israel had obtained "hard evidence" that the offices were operating in breach of the peace deal.

Israel also released the text of a letter Mr Netanyahu sent to King Hussein in response to a critical missive from the Jordanian leader.

"Israel and Jordan faced worse crises in the past than the problem we are facing today," the Prime Minister concluded. "It is up to us to realise our historical mutual interests."

Hussein letter, page 18
Photograph, page 22

US Army in race row as women deny rape claims

From Tom Rhodes in Washington

THE US Army faced accusations of racism yesterday after five female soldiers claimed they were bullied into making unfounded rape charges against their black drill instructors.

The five white recruits from Aberdeen Proving Grounds, the training base at the centre of a prolonged sex scandal which has plagued the US Army, said investigators coerced them into making false accusations against their black superiors. The army has denied the charge.

Since last November at least 50 women have made official complaints of sexual abuse at the training camp, including 27 claims of rape. One officer and about 20 others, mostly drill sergeants, have been implicated in an inquiry which has since spread to other bases around America.

The women — four privates and one who has been discharged — said they were compelled to make the statements after promises of immunity from prosecution and under the threat of retaliation from the investigators if they did not. They said that any past sexual contact with their instructors was consensual.

"I agreed to tell them what they wanted to hear in order for them to leave me alone," said Private Brandi Knewson, from Dallas. "I wanted to leave the post and get on with my life. They promised me I could do that if I co-operated with them."

Kathryn Leming, who has since left the army, said she had never admitted being raped, but had been told that consensual sex under military law was deemed to be rape. "They pushed me and pushed me until basically they tried to make me say rape. But I wouldn't do it. It was not the truth," she said.

Sponsored by the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP), the five women have recanted what the organisation claims were racially motivated attempts to implicate black non-commissioned officers.

The NAACP also believes that class and rank may have played a part in what it has deemed a white conspiracy. Kweisi Mfume, the organisation's president, said the violations of civil liberties called into question the entire investigation.

"These statements were not even written by them," he said yesterday. "They were told they would be shipped to Korea, that they would not see their children if they did not sign these statements."

It is the strong accusations of racism combined with the allegations of sexual abuse, however, that seem certain to resonate most strongly around the country and undermine military assurances that the inquiry is being conducted fairly. America is still wrestling with its treatment of black recruits in Vietnam and other conflicts.

The issue has been made more sensitive for a variety of reasons. The Pentagon is not merely the country's largest employer, but also the department which, more than any other, has used affirmative action to encourage blacks to join the armed forces.

Recent charges of sexual misconduct against Gene McKinney, the black Sergeant Major of the Army, have also resulted from the accusations of a white woman.

Lieutenant Colonel Gabriel Riesco, Chief of Staff at the Aberdeen training centre in Maryland, denied the five women had been badgered or bullied into submitting testimony. He said no rape charges had resulted from interviews with them. "Race has never been an issue in this investigation at all," he said. "It is an investigation about sin, not skin."

The group of women also included Privates Toni Moreland, Kelly Wagner and Darla Hornberger, all of whom said they had been subjected to verbal abuse by investigators. Private Hornberger, 30, from Oklahoma, said she could have kept silent to protect her family and children. "I could have kept my mouth shut and this would all go over, but something really wrong has happened," she said.

The Pentagon, meanwhile, announced that an eighth soldier at the training camp, Herman Gunter, a black staff sergeant, had been charged with sexual misconduct.

GARY SUSSMAN / AP

Kelly Wagner, left, Darla Hornberger and Kathryn Leming, second right, yesterday. They say white investigators forced them to lie about black superiors

Senate to examine both parties' funds

From Bronwen Maddox in Washington

IN AN abrupt reversal, Senate Republicans have given a committee wide-ranging powers to investigate campaign fundraising abuses in both political parties as well as in the White House.

In a victory for Senate Democrats and for the committee chairman, Republican Fred Thompson, the inquiry will have a much broader scope than specific claims of illegality in President Clinton's re-election campaign.

Democratic senators, who appeared stunned by their success, said the committee opened the way to a reform of "soft money" donations. "It's the best sign yet that we may pass some campaign finance reform" said Joseph Lieberman, Democratic Senator for Connecticut.

Most Republicans, including Trent Lott, the majority leader, wanted the Governmental Affairs committee to restrict its inquiry to Mr Clinton's campaign, after a flurry of allegations about illegal donations. The reversal came on Tuesday after a tense lunchtime meeting when Mr Thompson and seven other Republicans said they wanted the inquiry to cover improper or unsavoury activities, too.

They argued that an inquiry confined to illegal behaviour would be crippled by legal challenges from potential witnesses. Controversial coffee meetings at the White House and "sleepovers" in the Lincoln Bedroom would not be in its scope. Senators also noted that in the Watergate investigation the Senate looked at improper and illegal actions.

Facing defeat, Mr Lott threw his weight behind the Democrats' proposal, which was passed by 99 votes out of 100 with one abstention. The Senate then granted the investigation, which must be completed by the year's end, $4.35 million (£2.7 million).

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Ratings slump as Kohl shuts door on pit militants

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

WINDOWS stayed firmly shut in the offices of Helmut Kohl yesterday, and the air-conditioning was switched on, to block out the hoarse chanting of thousands of coalminers baying for the heads of government ministers.

The latest opinion poll results on the German Chancellor's desk hardly helped to lift the sense of siege: the ruling Christian Democrats have slumped from almost 42 per cent in the general election to just over 34 per cent.

There are those already predicting the downfall of the government coalition, torn between the nervous conscience-stricken Christian Democrats of the Chancellor and the tax-and-subsidy cutters of the Free Democrats. Herr Kohl has survived worse crises of national confidence: he sweats them out.

However, there is no mistaking the anxiety in and around the Government. Others have barracked Bonn before. None, however, made a direct impact on policy and the political class has been able to claim, convincingly, that Bonn is not Weimar, that parliamentary power does not bend to crowd politics. Herr Kohl was probably trying to make the same point when he called off talks on Tuesday with miners' representatives because of the noisy protests. Yet the effect was the reverse: it showed that the German leader was seriously unsettled about the bitter miners in the street below.

Paris: Senior finance officials from France and Germany, fresh from a meeting in Lyons, underlined their determination to launch the single European currency on time in January 1999, despite mounting speculation that rising unemployment could mean that the Germans fail to achieve the criteria laid down by the Maastricht treaty (Ben Macintyre writes).

The fear is that one group of workers — at the moment it seems likely to be the miners — will become the spearhead for disgruntled Germans who feel betrayed by the unravelling of the welfare state, the shedding of jobs and the many broken promises.

Since January Herr Kohl's party has lost about four percentage points in national popularity — and most of the slippage is probably because of defecting manual workers and their families who have for 14 years been one of the quiet mainstays of the Chancellor's power. Some seem now to support the Social Democrats who, with 36.3 per cent (36.4 at the 1994 general election), are now two clear percentage points ahead of the Christian Democrats.

Other figures in today's Allensbach Opinion Survey (1994 results in brackets) show the Christian Democrats have 34.3 per cent (41.5 per cent), the Greens 12.2 (7.3) and the Free Democrats 7.6 (6.9).

The miners seemed to suspend their protest on Tuesday night after an appeal by Hans Berger, their conciliatory union chief. Even as he spoke, hwoever, the protesting Ruhr workers were being replaced by fresh pit workers from the Saar. Herr Berger, pale, bespectacled and quite unlike his brawny members — made a similar appeal for dispersal yesterday and was shouted down. "We're staying here!" they chanted. "We're not going to leave like whipped dogs," said Rainer Kessler from a Saar pit, as he warmed his hands over a brazier. Oskar Lafontaine, the Social Democrat Party chairman, was quick to scent the resistance and avoided any call for moderation. Indeed Herr Lafontaine, cheered by his fellow Saarlanders, seemed to whip them up, saying: "They proposed tax reforms that will put £10,000 a year more in their own pockets while they toss away your jobs — how decadent this republic has become." Some miners nonetheless withdrew yesterday from Bonn to Cologne, vowing to return en masse today if another promised round of talks with Herr Kohl collapses.

Union leaders are floundering and the social consensus is beginning to buckle. Klaus Zwickel, head of the metal workers union, warned the Government that unless there was a quick deal on coal subsidies a "brush fire would sweep through the economy".

About 7,000 building workers drove home the point in Berlin with a third day of protests that have caused traffic to pile up in the city. The Construction Employers' Federation reckons on a loss of another 80,000 jobs over the year.

Yesterday, one Ruhr newspaper compared Herr Kohl with his arch-enemy Margaret Thatcher. "Everyone knows that structural change is necessary. The point is, however, that six mines should not be closed in rapid succession. Thatcherism has broken out in Bonn and this is a cause for fear."

TIM BRAKEMEIER / EPA

Oskar Lafontaine, the Social Democrat Party chairman, is hugged by a jubilant miner in Bonn yesterday

NEWS IN BRIEF

Radiation apology in Japan

Tokyo: Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, yesterday apologised for the "inadequate" handling of an accident in a nuclear reprocessing plant that left 35 workers exposed to radiation (Robert Whymant writes).

Government leaders expressed shock that the operators of the nuclear reprocessing complex at Tokaimura, 100 miles northeast of Tokyo, failed to notify them at once about a fire and subsequent explosion. The fire, followed ten hours later by the blast, forced the state-run Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corporation to shut down the Tokaimura complex.

Multiple rapist gets 15 years

Moscow: A Moscow court has jailed Oleg Kosarev, 31, for 15 years after finding him guilty of committing 85 rapes and robberies between 1992 and 1995, although police believe he may have commited as many as 124 rapes. Kosarev attacked women in the lifts of residential buildings in Moscow where he raped and robbed them. *(AP)*

Porn detentions

Paris: Police in 58 areas of France detained 111 people, including five schoolteachers, and seized more than 4,000 videos in an investigation into child pornography, investigators said. *(Reuter)*

Chand sworn in

Kathmandu: Lokendra Bahadur Chand was sworn in as Nepal's Prime Minister by King Birendra. Bam Dev Gautam, a Communist, will be his deputy — one of seven appointments. *(Reuter)*

Whale shot dead

Key West, Florida: A four-tonne Minke whale that beached on Big Pine Key was found to have five bullets in it. Police believed boaters in the Florida Keys opened fired on the creature. *(Reuter)*

Soyinka charged

Lagos: Wole Soyinka, the exiled Nobel laureate, and 11 other dissidents have been charged with treason by Nigeria's military Government over a spate of recent bomb blasts. *(Reuter)*

Frigid penguins

Bergen: Penguin-keepers at the Bergen aquarium in Norway, perplexed that no penguins have been born in 16 years, will undergo "penguin sex counselling" courses at Edinburgh zoo. *(AFP)*

Long white cloud hangs over New Zealand's name

FROM PATTRICK SMELLIE IN WELLINGTON

MAORIS are challenging New Zealand's European name — in place for 355 years — pressing instead for their own disputed version.

One group of tribes wants the official adoption of Aotearoa, meaning Land of Long White Cloud, which now doubles as New Zealand's second name. Some local groups already refer to Aotearoa/New Zealand, although Maori historians disagree whether precolonial tribes had a common name for the country.

While a total switch to Aotearoa would almost certainly be politically unpalatable the dual name would mirror the twin naming of landmarks, part of settlements between the Government and Maori tribes seeking redress for colonial injustices. The country's highest mountain, named after the English explorer James Cook who claimed the country for Britain in 1769, is to take the alternative Maori Aoraki, meaning cloud piercer, in a settlement with the main south island tribe, Ngai Tahu.

The north island's Mount Egmont became Mount Taranaki in the mid-1980s and is widely known by both names. Recently islands in Wellington's harbour called after colonial governors took Maori names, too.

However, Maoris comprise 13 per cent of the population and the political climate may not allow further erosion of European icons. Public outrage met a court ruling upholding the Maoris' right to catch trout without a licence. Equally unpopular are suggestions that they should not have to pay for car parking or dog licences.

Leading article, page 19

Succession worry for Mother Teresa

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

MOTHER TERESA, 86, anxious to give up leadership of her Missionaries of Charity order, has reportedly written to the Pope for guidance after 100 nuns from around the world failed to agree on her successor during lengthy deliberations in Calcutta.

The stalemate has raised the possibility that Mother Teresa, frail and in a wheelchair, might remain nominally in charge while a panel of senior nuns take over administrative duties as a stopgap arrangement. Nuns from 44 Missionaries of Charity centres remain cloistered in Calcutta as they attempt to reach a consensus on a new leader.

Mother Teresa's personal choice is Sister Michael Josef, one of her principal aides in Calcutta. Another senior nun, Sister Frederick, 81, also has her blessing but she has said she feels too old for the job.

The international standing of Mother Teresa, who founded the order 47 years ago, is a key reason why the Missionaries of Charity attracts millions of pounds in donations. There are concerns that, without her at the helm, contributions might fall.

Calcutta journalists reported that Mother Teresa had asked the Pope for "directions" as to whether she should continue as titular leader of the order or wait until a successor is agreed.

Mother Teresa: seeks guidance on successor

Diary of OJ's wife set to make $1m

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

THE horrifying diary kept by Nicole Brown Simpson before her murder is to become the basis of yet another book on the O.J. Simpson saga, thanks to a deal struck by her sister, reportedly for $1 million (£620,000).

For at least the last five years of her life, she kept a record of Mr Simpson's alleged abuse, accusing him of beating her while they had sex, attacking her car with a baseball bat and flying into a rage when accused of infidelity.

The diary helped a jury to find Mr Simpson liable last month for the murder of his wife and her friend, Ronald Goldman, after extracts were read in his civil trial, and is the main factor behind a $1 million advance being paid to Nicole's sister, Denise, according to the *New York Post*.

"I found an earring in my apartment bed," wrote Nicole in one entry. "I accused O.J. of sleeping with someone named Teri. He threw a fit, chased me, grabbed me, threw me into walls. Threw all of my clothes out of the window into the street three floors down."

In another entry she accused him of beating her "for hours". In yet another, addressed to the former American football star, she threatened to sleep with other men, "including some that you know, just to let you know how it feels".

Denise Brown, a former model, is said to have turned down earlier book offers for fear of jeopardising her parents' battle for custody of his children — a battle which, subject to appeals, he has now won. Nearly 20 books on the Simpson case have already been published.

On Monday, a judge endorsed the civil jury's $33.5 million award against Mr Simpson and cleared the way for the victims' families to begin seeking his assets. Delaying tactics are expected to put off any seizures for months or years.

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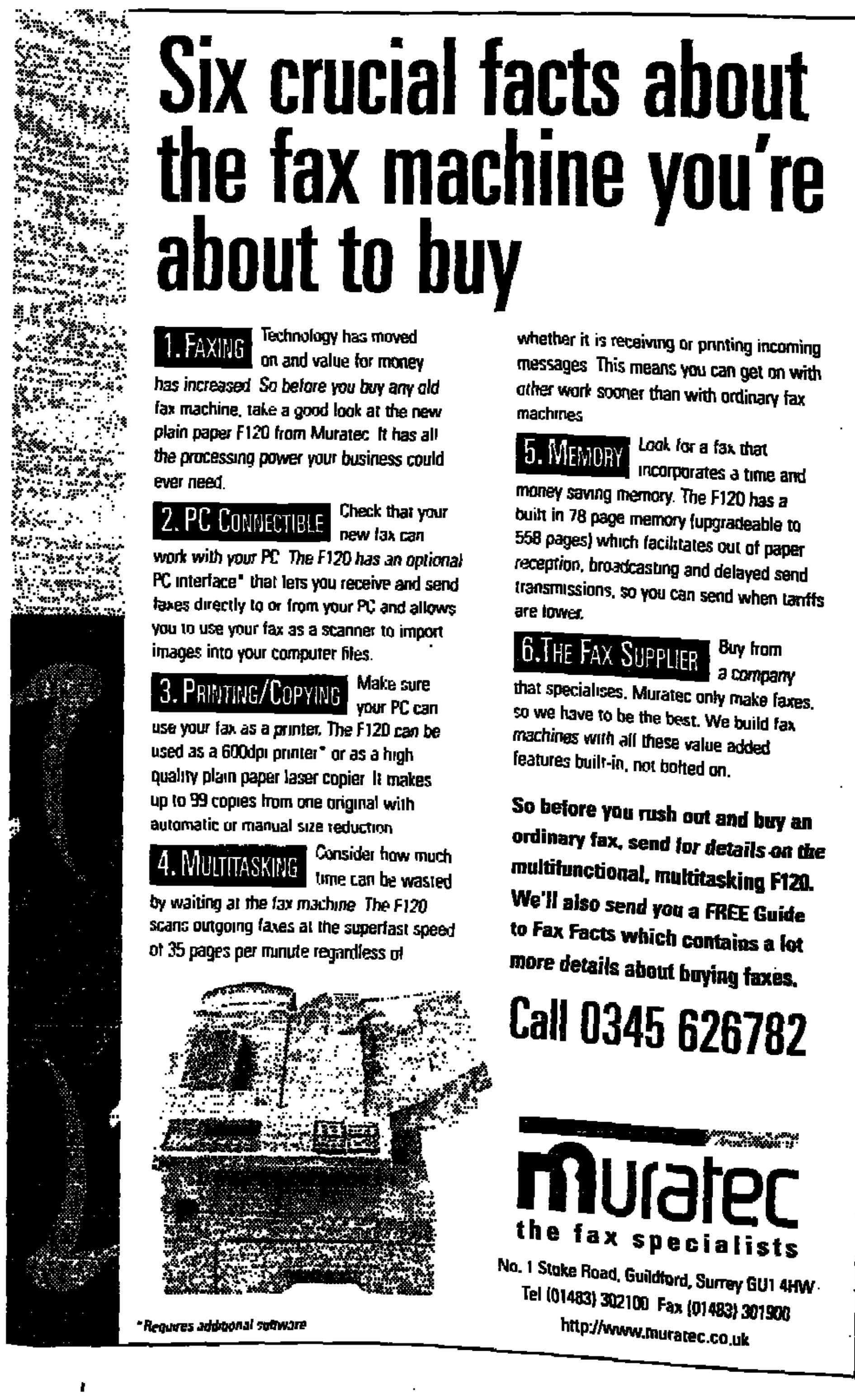

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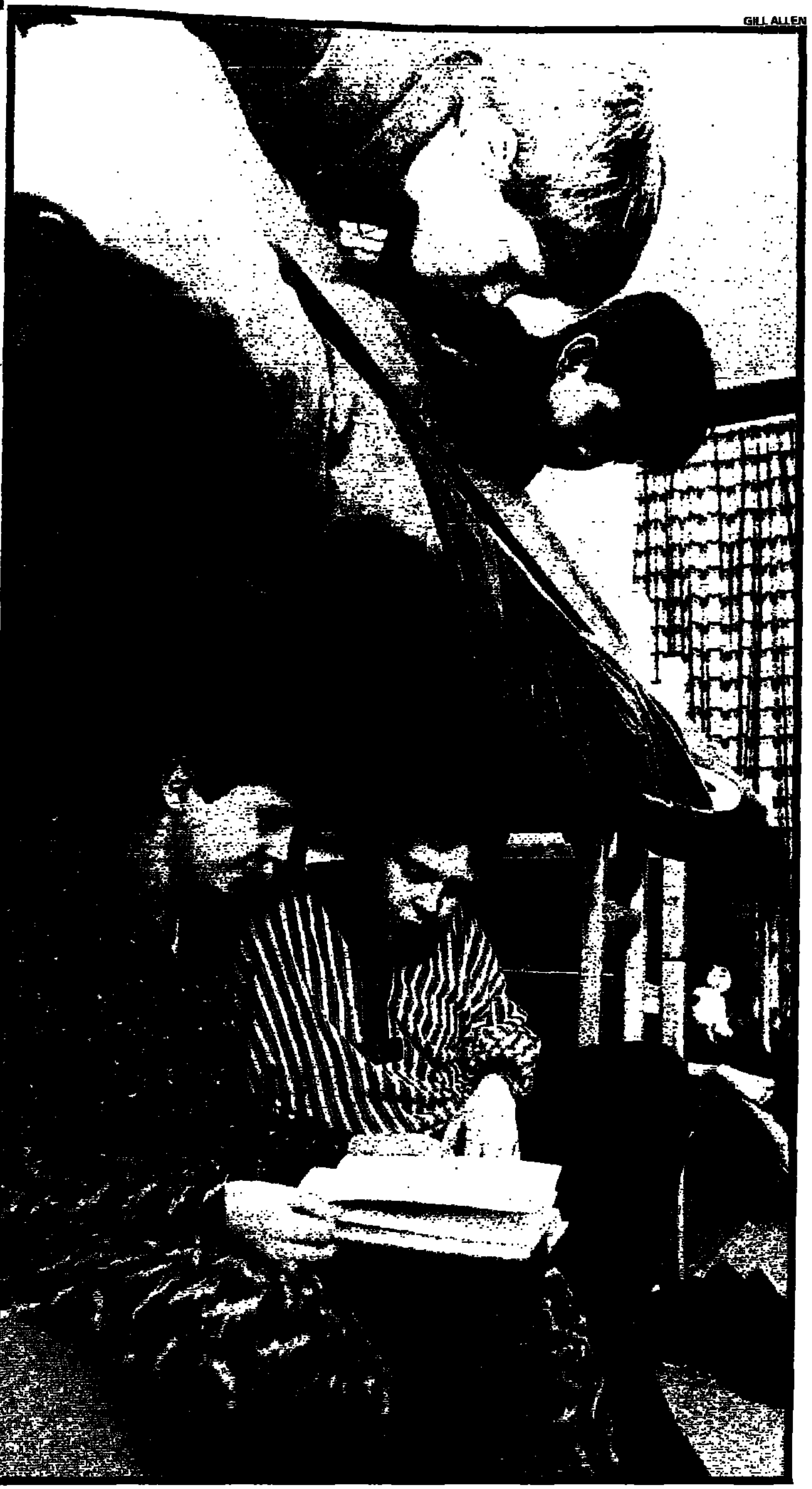

Pupils at Heath Mount can start with a single night's sleep-over to introduce them to boarding

Facing the first hurdle — at three years old

David Charter on the schools that offer a route from nursery to university

Sixty girls were assessed for the 32 coveted places on offer at Guildford High School. They faced a daunting panel of four teachers but, in case nerves got the better of them at the first attempt, the selection was staggered over two sessions on different days.

After all, the girls were only three years old.

"We try to get as broad a picture as we can of them," says Marian Shepard, head of Guildford's junior school, who sees all the young hopefuls during the spring term.

"We don't expect them to read but we look at pre-reading skills and language development."

Entrance examinations are a common feature of independent schools, especially those with a reputation like Guildford's, where girls go on to gain an average three Bs at A level. But they assume a particular importance when tiny children are being sized up for their potential in public examinations 13 years later.

More senior day schools are starting their own junior departments, or expanding them, to offer an almost guaranteed route from nursery to university on the same site. This presents parents who want an independent primary education with a choice: secure the desired senior school earlier, or take the traditional prep school route.

James Deadman had no doubt what would be best for his daughter, Holly. She was one of the chosen ones who sailed through Guildford's assessment of three-year-olds last year.

"We felt that Holly was ready for a good, structured education," he says. "It appealed to us that she could stay with one school."

The school's excellent A-level results were also an important consideration.

Guildford takes half its girls at four and most of the rest from state and independent schools at 11, with room for a few more at seven.

Mrs Shepard says that joining at four has obvious advantages of stability and continuity. The potential for GCSE or A-level success is not as important in the school's assessment of three-year-olds, she says, as "how well they will fit into the environment we offer".

Settling a child early in this way means they will not have the upheaval of finding a senior school at 11 or 13, which can be a weight off the minds of parents.

Dr Peter Scott, the headmaster of Bancroft's School in Woodford Green, Essex, is among those who believe that national curriculum testing is making competition for popular senior schools stiffer at 11.

"Young children are more used to sitting exams," he says. "Ten years ago, children in primary schools were not used to sitting down for two hours or more."

THE TIMES Primary Schools Report

This change could, in turn, tempt some prep schools to start "cramming" their older children as parents demand success at all costs.

"In competitive areas, parents might go for the all-round broad education at prep school or for other schools which are very focused and do a lot of exam practice," says Dr Scott.

The clamour for places led Bancroft's to open a junior section for seven-year-olds, with guaranteed senior places for children who remain there. It is now oversubscribed, with three children chasing every place.

The advent of Dr Scott's junior department has put him in the curious position of becoming a rival to the prep schools which traditionally provide his pupils. And the squeeze on places makes the successful prep schools hugely popular.

Lisa Lakin, the mother of two-year-old Edward and six-month-old twin girls, found she was too late to enrol her son at Woodford Green, one of the area's sought-after preps which sends children to Bancroft's. There is no selection process but the waiting-list system means that children have to be enrolled as soon as they are born.

"I had no idea how difficult it was," she says. "People planning a family should look at the schools in their area and register their children as soon as possible."

Ian Stroud, the headmaster at Woodford Green, is aware that parental expectations are high. "Partly we are here to get children into selective schools," he says. "Parents want to feel that at times children will be 'heads down', working in silence. But they also want them to experience a wide range of subjects and to have fun."

For Mr Stroud, the prep school offers the chance for children to develop their interests and to shop around for a senior school.

"You are not committing yourself at a young age," he says. "Most of our pupils will sit on three offers from different selective schools, then they can choose."

A sleep-over introduction to boarding

HEATH MOUNT prep has won 70 converts to a boarding school education. Yet none of them lives more than half-an-hour's drive away.

The popular school, set in 40 acres of Hertfordshire countryside, owes its startling success to the introduction of "sleep-overs" combined with an evening's activities, from coaching at soccer or netball to cooking a dish of the week. The youngest children can book one sleep-over a week, rising to three or five as they get older and their enthusiasm grows.

Boarding at preparatory schools has fallen by 40 per cent in the past ten years, partly because of the recession and partly because this generation of parents want to be with their children as they grow up.

Prep schools have begun to offer weekly or "flexi-boarding" in response to this so that children can spend weekends at home. Heath Mount took the idea one step further.

The headmaster, the Rev Harry Matthews, hit on the sleep-over strategy. "When I took over nine years ago there was a trend away from parents wanting to send their children away when they were seven and welcoming them home when they were shaving," he says. "Building our pre-prep department inevitably created a local market because there was a huge demand for independent education at four."

He first offered a three-night Monday to Wednesday package with supper and sports coaching thrown in, then realised that the younger children wanted to join in.

JAMES MACFARLANE had his first sleep-over last summer when he was seven and now stays two nights a week for rugby and the model railway club. Jane, his mother, is another convert. Even though she lives just five miles from school, she will pay for three nights' boarding in the summer.

"It turned out to be a wonderful idea," she says. They have all the facilities of the school, and its grounds, and as well as being with his friends he is learning to mix with 12 and 13-year-olds and gaining independence in a safe and caring environment."

Georgiana Deering is so impressed with the boarding experiment for Sarah, aged ten, and Robert, nine, that she is now prepared to consider full boarding at 13. "Most of us don't want full boarding for the younger ones but it is a perfect introduction. It has made Robert very responsible and very independent.

"Hopefully by 13 we will all be ready for full boarding. I am sure the children will be and hopefully so will we as parents."

Mr Matthews says: "Parents are saying yes to boarding here without thinking about it because we are not marketing boarding, we are marketing activities."

His creation of the Cavern Club, a coffee bar tribute to his Liverpudlian roots where the children can socialise before lights out, may also have helped.

"I am a boarding school inspector and have visited traditional schools where all they do in the evening is clean their shoes," he says. "If you offer something worthwhile, it has got to be better than going home and watching the telly."

● *For further information about boarding schools call the Independent Schools Information Service on 0171-630 8793.*

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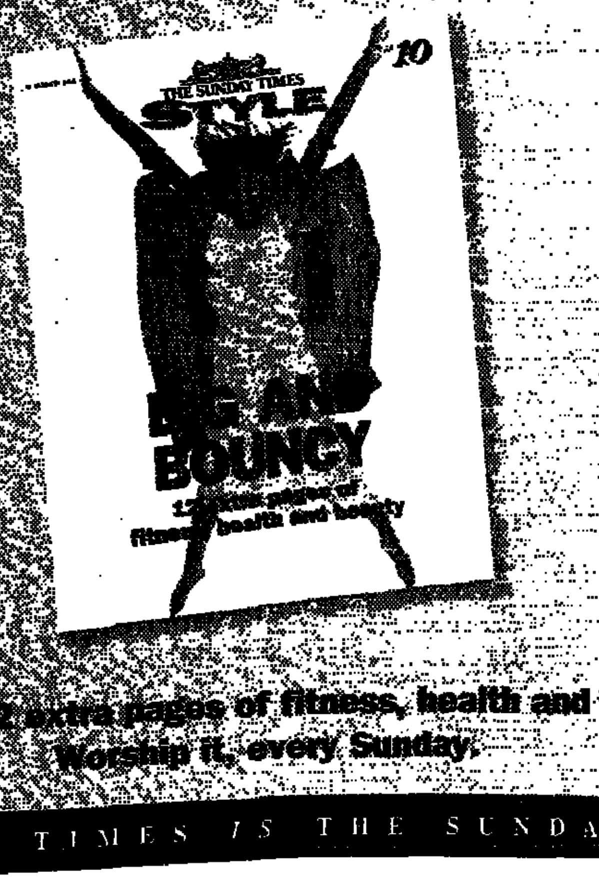

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Dr Thomas Stuttaford on the things we are too shy to tell our doctor or chemist; a patch to deliver hormone replacement; exotic diseases with similar names but very different symptoms; helping to catch cancer in time; why diabetics must care for their feet

Nothing for the weekend, thank you . . .

Until recently there was only one remaining reminder of the historic association between barbers and medicine. As the barber brushed his client's coat, he muttered: "Anything for the weekend, sir?" The barber wasn't trying to sell the latest hair restorer, but a packet of condoms. Hairdressers had found that many people were too shy to ask for them at the chemists.

An extensive survey has recently been commissioned to see if the public is now more brass-necked when shopping. Most people, it seems, are now prepared to buy condoms — although a majority find that they are the most embarrassing purchases they ever make. Jokes about courage failing at the last moment, resulting in an ever-growing pile of unwanted toothbrushes in the bathroom, are based on fact. In Manchester, 15 per cent of people failed to make a trivial purchase from the chemist because they were too shy to say what they wanted.

The second most embarrassing item to buy was any preparation designed to treat bowel disorders. More than 40 per cent of shoppers would rather ask for condoms than admit to needing something for a nasty stomach upset, or for irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).

Resolution was particularly apt to falter if people felt that by asking for Colpermin — or any other treatment for IBS — they would be admitting to suffering from wind, a painfully distended abdomen, intermittent diarrhoea and constipation, and a liability to make sudden rushes to the lavatory. So great is the embarrassment engendered by having a bowel disorder that Dr David Silk, a consultant who specialises in IBS, said that although one in five adults had symptoms, only 25 per cent of these people were brave enough to discuss it with their family doctor.

In Newcastle, 21 per cent of patients would rather suffer bowel symptoms than visit the chemist for the necessary pills.

Pharmacists seem to be even more disturbing to talk to than doctors. In London, Bristol and Manchester a majority of both men a women said that they would rather talk to a total stranger than a pharmacist about health. And throughout the country men were happier discussing their bowels with a stranger than with a chemist.

This reluctance to discuss bowel symptons costs lives. IBS is debilitating and inconvenient. But it can be confused with the first signs of a malignancy. Likewise bleeding from piles may obscure a cancer higher in the gut. Bowel symptoms should be diagnosed by the doctor, not by the patient.

The survey demonstrates how very varied the British personality is and how localities alter a patient's approach to health. In Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds, customers are more likely to talk over their problems with pharmacists if they are wearing white coats. Bristol people are more easily embarrassed than those from anywhere else if the chemist assistant, or the pharmacist is of the opposite sex. In general, however, most people do not find it very difficult to talk to someone of the other sex about intimate problems.

The survey did not ask: "Would you *rather* talk to someone of the opposite sex about your health?" In surveys with which I was involved when working in an inner city in genito-urinary medicine a surprisingly high number would. But the patient would reveal this preference only if the the questioning was anonymous. Quite different results were recorded if the patient was asked the same question with the questioner present.

Mancunians are the most likely to be shy in chemists, and Glaswegians the least. Tynesiders are most likely to feel comfortable only when discussing their health man-to-man, or woman-to-woman. Indeed, they admit to feeling badly put out if there is no one of their own sex with whom they can discuss anything between the navel and the knee.

> Refusal to discuss intimate symptoms is costing lives

ALL ACTION PICTURES

Staying power: hormone replacement therapy has helped actress Kate O'Mara to stay youthful

Now, HRT without the tears

HORMONE replacement therapy (HRT) for women who have not had a hysterectomy usually consists of oestrogen and progesterone. This combination of hormones helps to support the cardiovascular system and improves bone strength, without endangering the uterus.

HRT doesn't necessarily produce women with the drive of Teresa Gorman but it is well designed to preserve the youth of someone such as the actress Kate O'Mara.

With standard HRT regimes, women are required to take different tablets at different times of the menstrual cycle, or to stick on patches to deliver oestrogen. But later in the cycle they should take progesterone in tablet form.

Unfortunately, many women fail to persevere with HRT because of side-effects. The worst of these, irritability and irrationality, can dwarf the symptoms of the premenstrual syndrome. The side-effects are related to the progesterone phase in HRT.

Now a new product, Nouvelle TS, has been introduced in which the progesterone and oestrogen can be delivered through the skin via a combined matrix patch.

For the first 14 days the patches contain oestrogen only. For the second two weeks they contain oestrogen and progesterone.

This is the first time that progesterone has been delivered in a simple patch. Nouvelle, it is claimed, causes much less skin irritation than earlier patches.

When hormones are delivered through the skin, they enter the bloodstream before they have been metabolised in the liver, which is what happens when they are taken by mouth. As smaller doses of hormones are needed when using a patch, the side-effects are reduced.

Never confuse your Kuru with your Koro

Although it is said that medical students confuse Kuru and Koro, both conditions are so bizarre that they remember them throughout their lives.

Kuru has recently become important, as it is the form of spongiform encephalopathy — mad cow disease — which nearly wiped out previously cannibalistic tribes in parts of Papua New Guinea 40 or 50 years ago (cannibalism ended only in 1956).

With Kuru, as with BSE, the initial symptom is often a staggering gait, whereas in Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease the early symptoms are predominantly neuro-psychiatric, with depression and dementia prominent among them. Kuru was much more common in women and children, who were fed offal, than in male warriors, who ate their rivals' muscles — the lean meat. If 40 years ago the lessons of Kuru had been accepted by animal feed manufacturers and the scientists who advised them, the beef industry would not be in the trouble it is.

Koro is a psychiatric condition. It is the syndrome triggered by acute anxiety experienced by patients when they feel, usually without justification, that their genitalia are shrinking away and in danger of disappearing. The delusion can affect both sexes but is much more common in men than in women, who may also believe that their nipples are vanishing.

Koro makes headlines whenever the anxiety spreads through a community. Only one man has to claim that his manhood is shrivelling before his eyes, and all his friends feel duty-bound to have a hasty look to see how they are faring. These friends similarly become convinced that they are not the men they were, adding to the general feeling of alarm.

Scapegoats are often sought. Frequently the local medicine man is hunted down and sometimes lynched. At other times government officials are accused of poisoning the village or town.

In 1990 there was widespread panic and violence in Nigeria during an outbreak of Koro, and during the past 12 months there have been two other outbreaks in West Africa. Previously there were problems in the Far East, where the condition was first described. A year or two ago, a man in Singapore became so convinced that he would die if his penis shrank into his abdomen that he decided to beat nature to it and committed suicide. In the Far East, patients take extreme measures to prevent disaster and are prepared to stick safety pins through their organs, to weigh them down with heavy weights, or to attach them to doorframes or furniture.

Before British people congratulate themselves that such things do not happen here, they should remember that every week, in any busy genito-urinary clinic, there will be one or two distraught patients pathologically anxious that their penises are not only too small but getting smaller. Genitalia, male and female, shrink with age, a process that is accelerated by an excessive intake of alcohol. In other cases the old adage applies that if you don't use it, you lose it. Frequently the cause of men's anxiety is found to be that as they have grown older, although their genitalia have remained the same size, they have gradually become enveloped in a "middle-aged spread".

The treatment, whether in Africa, Malaysia or Whitechapel, is based on reassurance. If the anxiety is obsessional and is upsetting someone's life, a drug called Seroxat will not only reduce anxiety and depression but, for complex pharmacological reasons, may even in some cases correct the perceived problem.

Leading-edge screening

BRIGHTON is home to Britain's most unusual screening centre. Staff at the Brighton cancer prevention clinic offer a service in which the screening is combined with information on all matters of general health. Medical advice is dispensed along with recipes for a healthy diet and in every case the consultation is individually tailored to offer maximum information.

Although a charity, there is nothing Dickensian about the centre's equipment. Dr Jan Dewinter, the medical director, has at his disposal a new mamography machine, the Mammonet 300, which is able to assess automically the nature of a women's breast tissue so as to compress them just enough to obtain a consistently high image on the X-ray film without causing unnecessary discomfort.

In those cases where ultrasound examination of the breast is also indicated the clinic has a colour doppler ultrasound system which gives an exceptionally sharp image.

A firm footing for diabetics

PEOPLE with diabetes are apt to suffer disease in both the nerves and blood vessels leading to their lower limbs.

Diabetic patients need to regularly check their feet before these complications become apparent. Doctors have always told patients to make certain shoes were not too small and did not pinch even in winter when their socks were likely to be thicker.

A recent survey has shown that it is equally important for the shoes not to be too large as then they can rub, or let stones in. Ideally, patients would be better served if their shoes could be made for them.

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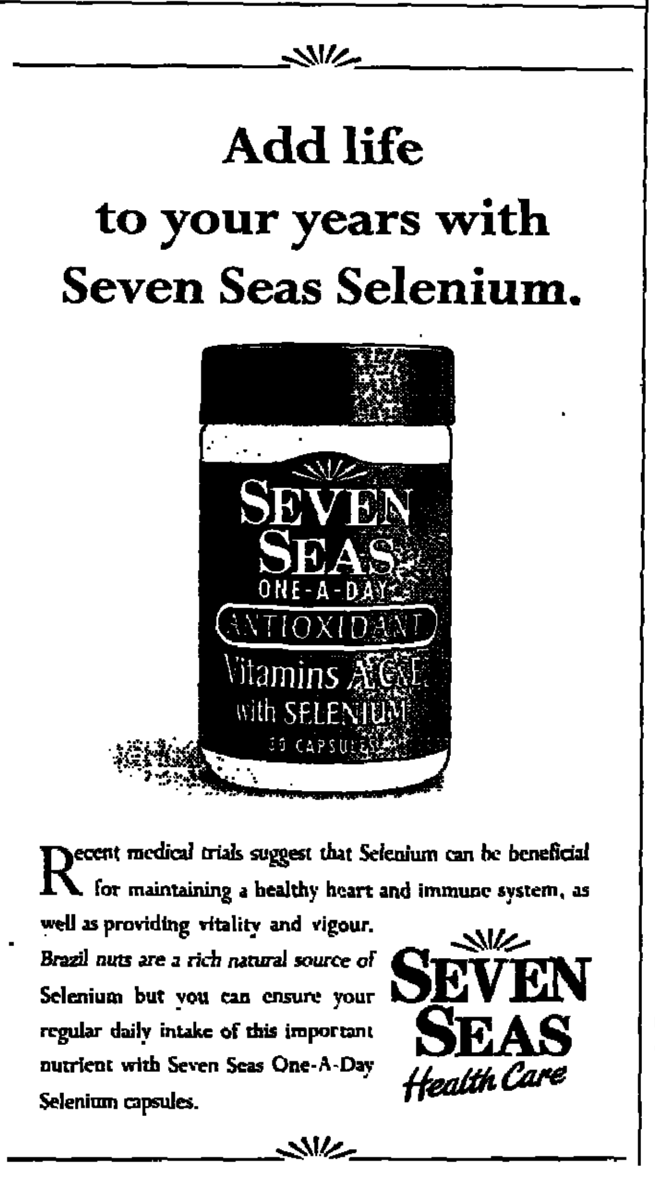
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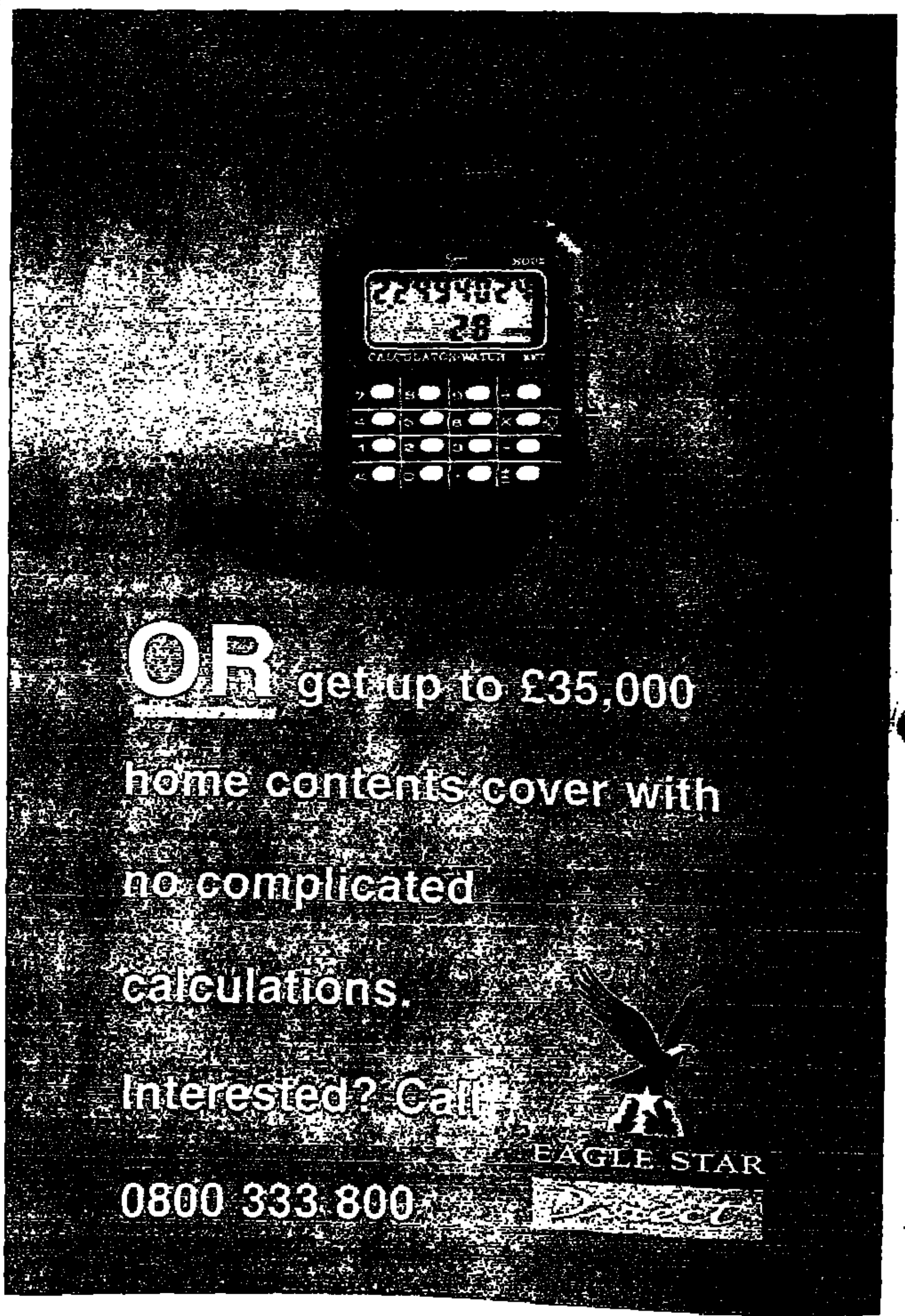
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'On the count of three, fill the bag'

As 'Dyke Turpin', Britain's most notorious female armed robber, Georgina Wainwright held up banks with her son's toy pistol. The drama had a tragic ending, reports **Julian Kossoff**

Georgina Wainwright, 33, was poised to make criminal history. But having committed the crimes, she couldn't face the time and so, on the eve of the trial at which she expected to be sentenced to 15 years, she stood her regulation prison-issue iron bedstead on its end and hanged herself, ending a sad but sensational life as the most prolific female bank robber Britain has seen.

"The beauty that was a beast," ran the front-page banner headline in the evening paper in her home town of Newcastle when she died. "Whenever she walked into a room every head would turn," says her sister, Charmaine Kostromin, 29. "She was very chic. The way she walked, the way she dressed, she always looked immaculate. She was beautiful."

In north London, where she committed most of her 12 bank hold-ups, she was dubbed the "glamorous gunslinger" by one local newspaper. When she attempted to rob the Nationwide Building Society in Crouch End Broadway last April, she was described as "dressed up for a night at the opera".

The report told how "an elegant woman, aged around 30, wearing a long, black velvet coat, black hat, gloves, silver-framed glasses and carrying a small handbag" had demanded cash from a 26-year-old female bank teller. Because of her good looks, reporters repeatedly referred to her as a former model, though she only ever had one assignment — a profile in *Cosmopolitan* about women in prisons.

"If she had got on the right side of the law she would have made something of her life," says Charmaine. Unfortunately, Georgina was born on the wrong side of the law. Her beauty only concealed the tragedy that was her early life.

She grew up in a South Shields slum, the unwanted stepdaughter of a petty criminal who was a grotesque bully. "A most unfortunate and disturbed background" is how her prison psychiatrist describes it.

Sitting in the waiting room at St Pancras Coroners' Court, where Georgina's inquest was held last week, Charmaine takes another drag on her roll-up and shudders at the thought of her father.

He wreaked terror on his five children and launched Georgina, then known as Dawn (she later changed her name so as to be known as anything but Kostromin, says Charmaine), on her journey towards self-destruction. He rejected her at the age of 12, revealing that he did not consider her his daughter. "One day when she called him daddy, he turned around and said 'You're not my daughter.' " says Charmaine.

Georgina was soon placed in care. Her life as the ultimate outsider — a junkie, a lesbian, a single mother, a convict and, most significantly, an armed robber — had been set in motion.

Her contact with her mother ended many years ago when she called the police and tried to have Georgina arrested for being a "shame" on the family. Neither parent bothered to attend her inquest. Her father disappeared from her life 20 years ago, only to reappear on the news of her hanging when he sold her story to the local newspaper. According to Charmaine: "He was after his 15 seconds of fame because he was a lonely, sad old man."

Forsaken by her parents and her siblings — except Charmaine, who maintained a close and loving relationship with her older sister until she died — and desperately in need of help, she arrived in London in the early 1980s. She made the fatal mistake of trying to escape her growing mental desperation with heroin.

According to a prison psychiatrist, she also had immense problems coping with the death of an imaginary identical twin sister, which had led to "an enduring legacy of self-blame, chronic self-destructiveness and unresolved feelings of guilt".

"Georgina invented the twin sister," says Charmaine. "She really believed she had a sister. But ten years ago she killed her off. She was her good side."

With her "good side" dead, Georgina turned to crime with a vengeance. From the age of 17, she had committed a series of petty crimes, including theft and handling stolen goods, to feed her heroin habit. But by 1989 she was "banging" £350 worth of heroin a week and stepped up her criminal activity to an unprecedented level.

For women to commit armed robberies is rare but in 1990 Georgina was to hit the headlines for the first time when she was sentenced at the Old Bailey to eight years for a series of hold-ups on building societies in north London. "She kept me from doing bad things, but she couldn't stop herself," says Charmaine.

Georgina during a hold-up

Before Georgina began her career as an armed robber, she and Charmaine shared flats in Crouch End and Finsbury Park. They were the last happy times for Georgina, says Charmaine, who smiles as she recalls their nights out on the town, when the two good-looking sisters made heads turn in clubs and pubs on the north London gay scene.

Georgina was a lesbian but she occasionally had relationships with men. In 1983, one man was to father a son with Georgina. "He is all she ever had," says Charmaine. But she was soon to lose him as well, and in the spectacular fashion that was her trademark in life.

It was her son's toy pistol that she used to petrify cashiers into handing over £2,000 in cash in the first series of robberies. Sentencing her at the time, the Recorder, John Hugill, QC, said she had shown no contrition or remorse. Disguised with dark glasses and a snood to hide her long, brown hair, she would wait until the building society was empty before approaching the till with her fake gun in a plastic bag. She was hyped as a latter-day "Dyke" Turpin, who was reported to have demanded: "Your money, or your life."

There was no risk to the cashiers, "but that does not hide the obvious terror of the young girls who gave evidence before this court", the judge said. Eyewitnesses said she smiled when the judge sentenced her to eight years. Psychiatric records describe her as having a borderline personality disorder, showing no remorse for her crimes and being at war with society.

While on remand, Georgina and her lover, Avril Williams, who had a string of convictions for theft, violence and drugs, hatched an elaborate hoax kidnapping of her son to get her out of prison on bail.

A new batch of headlines followed. When the plot was revealed, and it also emerged that the son had been returned by Haringey council to the custody of Williams, who was black, the tabloids had a "loony lefty" field day. The story plunged the council into a row over whether its childcare policy was dictated by an ideological commitment to lesbian and race issues. Eventually, the boy was sent to foster parents permanently. Georgina served six years and Williams was blasted in the chest with a shotgun by a rival for Georgina's affections.

Over Christmas 1995, while Holloway prison was at the centre of a scandal over vermin, Georgina was released. After serving six years, and having spent part of her time with the most notorious woman criminal of her generation, Rosemary West, she was back on the streets of north London, where she had once lived, scored "smack" and held up banks. Within months, she was set to repeat the pattern.

However, in the brief interlude before her rearrest for two armed robberies, her life took an unusual turn. She became involved in a serious relationship with a man. "He was kind and gentle," says Charmaine. But by the spring, heroin was back in control of Georgina.

On April 19 last year, Georgina wrote herself into the record books when she held up three building societies before the close of business. First, she walked into the Nationwide in Crouch End, pulled a gun from her handbag and demanded cash from a 26-year-old assistant. But she ran away empty-handed when the security shutters were activated.

She then caught a bus to Kentish Town, where she walked into the Nationwide, relieving a petrified cashier of the contents of her till. But rather than rush round to her smack dealer, Georgina headed for the West End and another hold-up.

Pauline Henry, the singer, was standing in the queue at the Tottenham Court Road branch of the Halifax behind Georgina. According to Henry, when Georgina reached the till she pulled out a silver gun and said: "Fill the bag on the count of three." The petrified teller on the other side of the glass handed over a wad of cash. Waving the gun, Georgina demanded: "And the rest."

Henry says: "Her tone was commanding, authoritative, but she was trembling like a leaf." Indeed, as she fled the building into Tottenham Court Road, she left a trail of stolen notes in her wake. She evaded the police for a month, before resurfacing on May 14 at the Midland Bank in Stoke Newington, where she made off with £1,936.

Shortly afterwards, she was arrested, pleaded guilty at Snaresbrook Crown Court and was sent back to Holloway on remand to await sentencing. "She knew she was in for a long custodial sentence," says Detective Chief Inspector Moore of Holloway police.

But already her fertile imagination was working overtime on an escape plan. "She was a very clever, intelligent woman," says Selma Murphy, an old friend and fellow inmate. "She could dodge any situation." Georgina had decided to "try and nut herself off", as Murphy put it. Her plan was to fake mental illness by not eating, to get herself sent to a civilian hospital from where she could escape. She refused to go to the dining hall, though her cellmates sneaked her in food, but the prison authorities were unimpressed by her starvation ruse.

On Thursday, August 29, Georgina met her solicitor, Siobhan Cullen, to discuss her sentencing the following Monday. She found her client "obdurate and uncooperative".

Cullen told her it was unlikely that she would be detained under the Mental Health Act. "I'm not going to court on Monday," she said to Cullen. Georgina told her not to waste her journey by going to court either. "She said she'd be in an outside hospital by then," says Cullen.

As she drove away, Cullen felt uneasy. She told her secretary to fax Holloway warning the prison medics to watch Georgina over the weekend. However, there was a delay and the fax was not sent until 3.20pm on Friday.

Holloway's administrative staff obviously knock off early at the end of the week because there was no one there to receive the urgent fax. The fax finally arrived in the relevant pigeonhole on Monday morning, by which time Georgina was dead.

Sunday night in cell C4 and cellmates Georgina, Bernadette Whelan, Helen Buckley, Samantha Creed and Hilary Cox were chatting and joking as they prepared for bed.

When the nurse came to the door hatch to distribute the vital Valium and sleeping pills which complement the illicit drugs that swill around all of Britain's prisons, Georgina joined the queue. She was "clucking" (experiencing withdrawal from heroin). But because of her ersatz hunger strike, she was refused her medication. "Please nurse," joked Georgina, "my Dad's dead, my Mum's dead, my cat's dead and my goldfish is dead."

Samantha, her girlfriend at the time, said they discussed suicide but it was a common subject among inmates and they thought nothing of it.

"She lay next to me for a bit and then she kissed me on the cheek and went to her bed. I assumed she was getting changed and I fell asleep," says Samantha. Unusually, however, Georgina had not asked her to share her pills that evening.

Georgina asked the others for the "swing" — a bag tied to a makeshift rope that was lowered out of the window to pass messages to inmates in the cell below — and started to write on the back of an envelope. Drugged, all the other women fell asleep quickly.

Helen Buckley woke in the early hours when "a cold feeling came over me". Georgina, wearing a pink sweatshirt, grey jeans and trainers, was hanging by her neck from the upended bedstead. She had used the rope from the illicit swing and strips of material from a skirt.

The jury at St Pancras Coroner's Court recorded that she had died as a result of misadventure. In his summing up, the Coroner, Dr Stephen Chan said: "This hanging could have been a bid to get back into hospital that tragically backfired."

Attempts by Georgina's legal representation to prove that neglect by the prison authorities might have played a part in her death were rejected by Dr Chan. However, after the suicide the prison moved the fax machine, where Cullen's urgent appeal for Georgina to be monitored lay unread over the fateful weekend, "to prevent another similar event".

In an unusual move, her suicide note — written on the envelope of a letter sent by Haringey Social Services about her son and the effect that the impending prison sentence would have on his education — was read to the court by Dr Chan: "For my dear son . . . you're better off without me. I can't put you through any more. If there was any other way I'd do it. Please forgive me and stay with your foster mother. Love Mom."

● *This article originally appeared in* Time Out

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The wrong side of the law: a smiling and well-dressed Georgina on her way to prison

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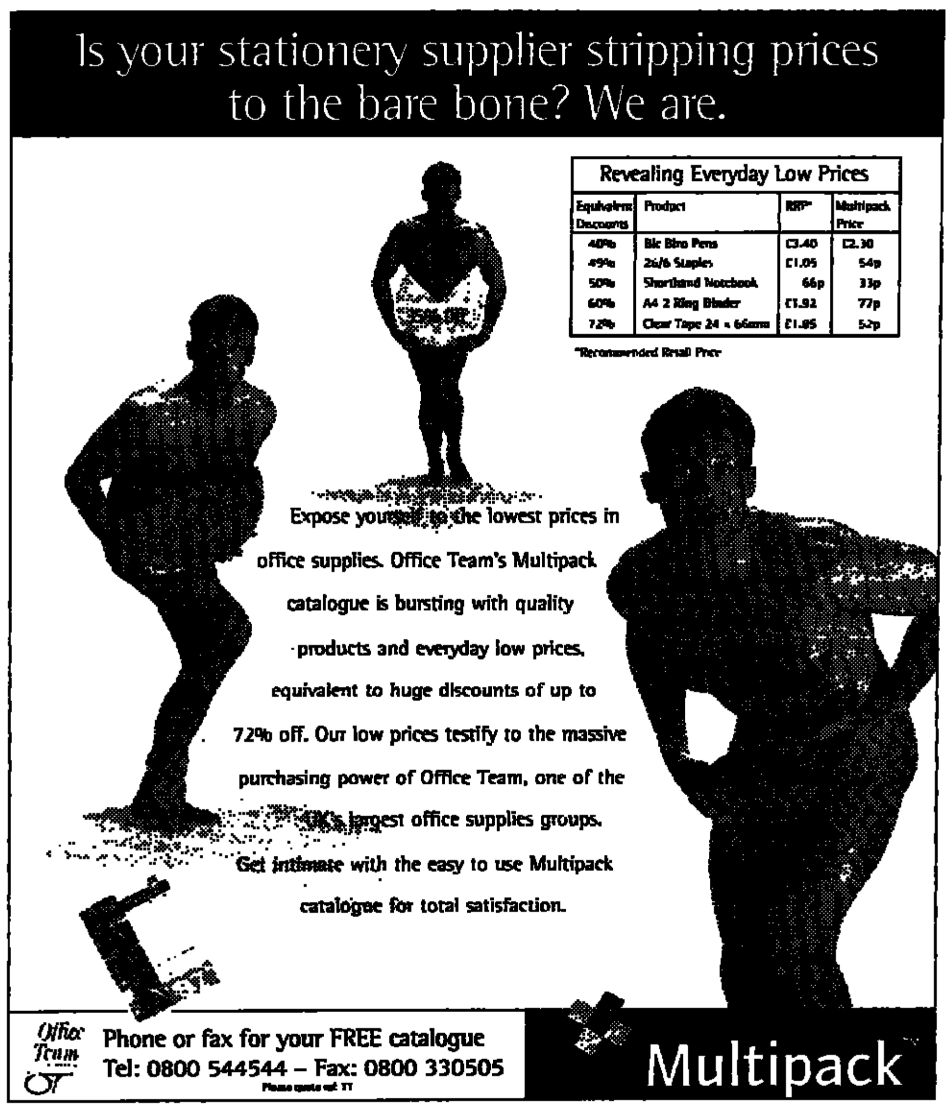

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Labour's liaison with Leviathan

William Waldegrave says Blair's fiscal probity is election-deep

Conservatives distrust Leviathan. We believe that government that is too big threatens individual liberty and swamps independent institutions. Governments, however, have an inherent tendency to grow: they follow the laws which drive all organisations. In modern society, the natural process is egged on by pressure groups which take no responsibility for the outcome in terms of tax. So Conservatives have to lean against the wind to stop the State getting bigger, let alone to roll it back.

In this country, only the Conservative Party now has that kind of commitment (the last Liberal who had it was Jo Grimond). Our belief in keeping taxes low stems directly from our belief in liberty, and a limited, but effective State. We also believe that big government damages the efficiency of the economy. For example, a recent IMF report found that countries with large state sectors tend to have high rates of unemployment. Another IMF study found that countries which control deficits by cutting spending (rather than putting up taxes) have the more success.

During the 1960s and 1970s, British Governments, like their European counterparts, took an ever rising share of the national income. In the 1980s and 1990s that trend has continued on the continent of Europe. But Conservative Britain broke free from the pack after 1979. Taking similar points in the economic cycle, public spending in Britain has been on a clearly declining path ever since.

Lower public spending means lower taxes. The Tory tax dividend is £2,300. That is how much extra every household in this country would now be paying if we had allowed public spending to go on rising so that it matched the average level in the European Union. This is a fair estimate (it may be rather optimistic) of the situation we would be in now if Labour had won the elections since 1979.

We plan to maintain the downward trend. Next year we will achieve our aim of reducing spending as a share of national income to below 40 per cent. We will then ensure that public expenditure, taking the trend through the economic cycle, continues to grow more slowly than the economy as a whole. That means that we will ensure that spending falls as a percentage of gross domestic product. This will maximise the chance of steady non-inflationary growth, and of the proper funding of public services which depends on that growth. For the next three years we have set tough but realistic plans which will mean that the control total grows by just 0.5 per cent a year in real terms. That is just a little less than the average growth rate over the past four years. It is attainable with the same level of discipline. *It means a steady and* committed campaign to strip out waste, to bear down on the cost of the public sector, and to keep the State to its proper sphere.

Control of spending will enable us to bring public sector borrowing back towards balance over the medium term, and to make further tax cuts as the trend towards lower spending as a share of national income continues. Only if we do that will we retain one of the lowest debt burdens in the EU.

The Labour Party would like people to believe that it is now a convert to the case for small government. But Labour's instincts derive from the other tradition in politics — that of collectivism and of its consequence, bigger government. Its commitment to fiscal probity is new, and it is skin-deep. Controlling public expenditure has been difficult enough for a party that is genuinely committed to small government; it would be utterly impossible for one that has spent the years since 1979 stoking claims about the "underfunding" of every conceivable public service.

We have carefully costed all of Labour's firm spending commitments. If they were all implemented, public expenditure would rise by £30 billion a year by the end of a Parliament, or about 3½ per cent of GDP. Despite its loud claims to the contrary, Labour has *not* abandoned these pledges. Instead its attempt to rebut our message about its £30 billion promises has consisted of a combination of insults and fantasy. For example, it claims that around £6 billion of its pledges would be paid for from "within existing resources" or by making "savings" elsewhere. But Labour leaders cannot identify the savings, or the existing resources that they would divert.

It is not safe to base policy on such optimism

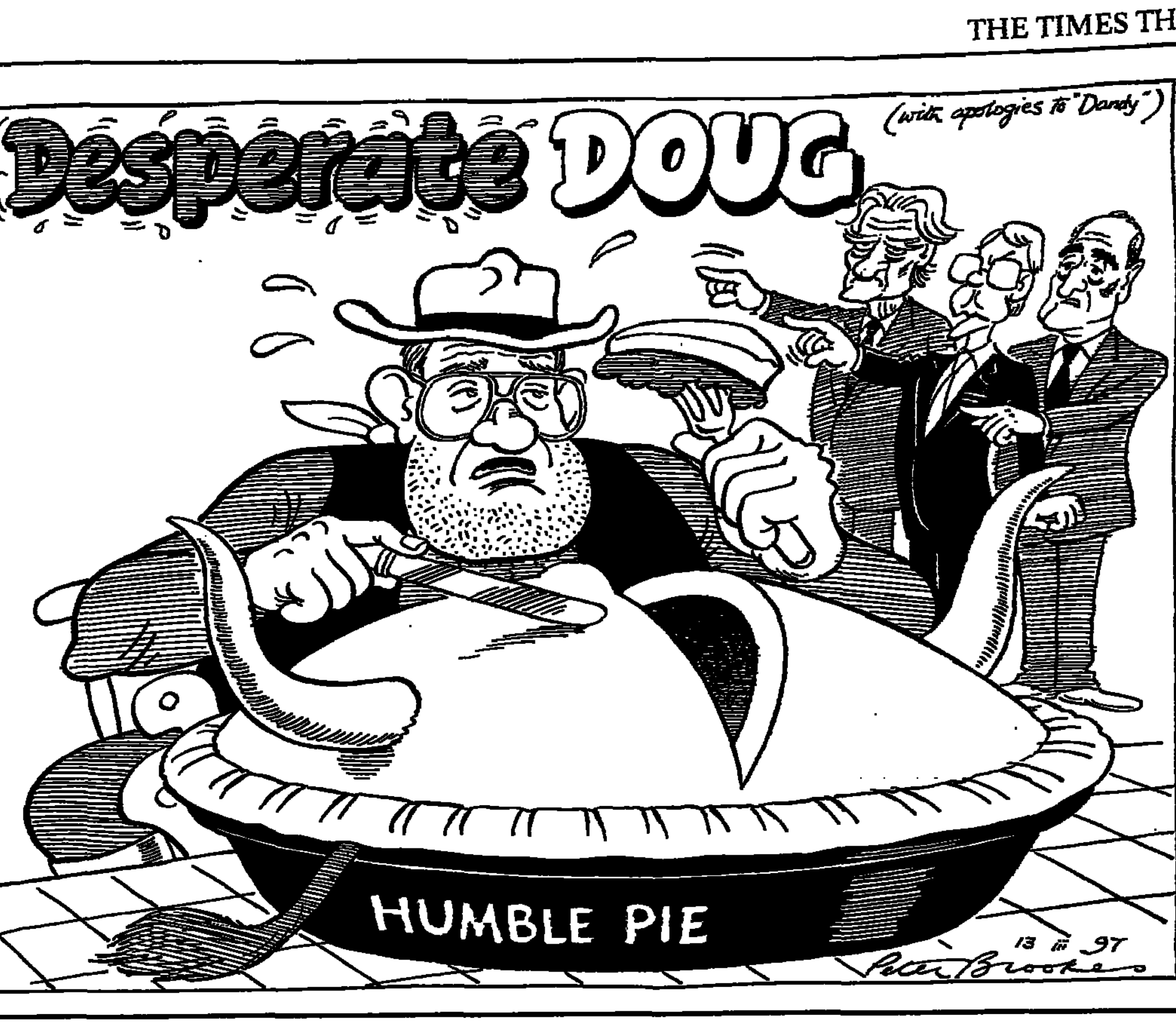
Another £9 billion is alleged to be "self-financing" — for example, the hugely expensive pledge to reduce social security benefit tapers. Labour hopes that marginal action on incentives will produce massive savings in benefits. It is unsafe to base policy on such optimism.

Then there is the windall tax. This proposed one-off levy has the remarkable power of paying for things which will go on costing money every year. When I pointed this out to one Labour friend, he chuckled: "Didn't you know, windfalls come every year?" And that, I expect, is the truth: new taxes every year.

From now through to election day we will therefore go on demanding an answer to the question: where will the money come from? Either there would be a large bill, or Labour would betray the lobby groups it has sought to buy. *In reality, I expect it would be* both, as in the 1970s — *both* betrayal *and* a financial crisis.

Labour cannot match our pledge to keep down taxes and borrowing, because it is not committed to bringing down public spending as a share of national wealth. The choice before the electorate is simple: reversion to the old days, or progress to an increasingly secure future with policies for low spending, low taxes, low inflation and high growth.

The author is Chief Secretary to the Treasury.



Our meat is his poison

Douglas Hogg is decent and clever, but implausible in his impossible job

William Rees-Mogg

I like Douglas Hogg and I feel that it is time someone put in a good word for him, though I do not suppose the word I shall put in will be exactly the word he would most like. In the 1970s, when he was a young barrister, he was one of the libel readers for *The Times.* He was a popular lawyer with the journalists because he took a robust view of what constituted defamation, and was not easily frightened into cutting their copy. He was popular with me because his intelligent and sometimes caustic conversation on life and politics enlivened the periods when I was waiting for copy or proofs in that pre-electronic age.

I had already known his father, Quintin Hogg, now Lord Hailsham, for 20 years, since the mid-1950s, and had applauded the speeches of his glory days, when he was one of the few successful post-war chairmen of the Conservative Party. In 1963, Quintin Hogg had come quite close to becoming prime minister.

There is a remarkable temperamental resemblance between father and son, though the difference is probably even more significant. Both men have the virtues of courage, intelligence and a sense of honour; both are gifted advocates. On the negative side, both have a notable irritability, both have a weak sense of the likely public response to their actions, both have an exaggerated preference for their own ideas. Hoggs are interesting people, but not always easy people to deal with: there is also a certain immaturity about their judgment. In the House of Lords, Lord Hailsham is much loved because he is still, in his 90th year, a great boisterous brilliant schoolboy.

The big difference is that the father, though much like the son, has the volume turned up higher. His virtues are closer to the scale of genius: his misjudgments can be equally earth-shattering. All Hoggs seem to be eccentric, not only in their hats. Even in Texas, there was a Houston multi-millionaire, probably no relation, who called his two daughters Ima Hogg and Ura Hogg; they lived to a great age as influential members of the best Houston society. If Quintin had been equally heartless, he might have named his elder son Halfa Hogg, *since in Douglas the Hogg* genes have been modified by those of his sensible and admirable mother. He knows himself to be only half as eccentric as his father, but may well have only have half his father's genius. It has not been easy for him.

Because his grandfather was Lord Chancellor between the wars, Douglas will eventually inherit a peerage, yet the Hoggs are not an aristocratic family, but a professional one. They belong to the older English intellectual professional class. There are not as many of them as there are Butlers, Darwins or Coleridges, but they belong to the same culture and follow a similar range of professions. They do not make money; they make speeches. On the whole, their gifts do not run to administration. When Lord Hailsham was chairman of the Conservative Party, he had Oliver Poole, a successful businessman-politician, as his deputy. Hailsham inspired the troops; Oliver Poole ran the election machine.

For generations, the Ministry of Agriculture has been a nightmare department. It has always been the classic example of what is known as "agency capture", the situation that arises when a ministry which represents government in relation to an interest group comes to represent that group in relation to government. Margaret Thatcher believed the Foreign Office was a "captured" agency, advocating the interests of foreigners. Certainly the Ministry of Agriculture has long had a reputation in Whitehall for subservience to farmers. Most Ministers of Agriculture have some farming connection, though I think Douglas's are relatively slight. They become eager captives; they put on their wellington boots and have themselves photographed at the local market talking to farmers about fatstock prices, and nowadays about set-aside.

This has all been made much worse by Europe. The common agricultural policy is an even worse example of "agency capture" than the ministry itself. The policy exists to ensure that the European customer pays more for the food produced by *European farmers than it is worth.* This policy is adjusted by the 15 agriculture ministers in private meetings; they are the tied agents of an international producer cartel. The Minister of Agriculture is also a regulator; among other things he has to control the complex, quarrelsome and apparently incompetent bureaucracy of the Meat Hygiene Service. This system is subject to European regulations and covers more than 400 abattoirs, 76 of the largest of which process more than 50,000 carcasses a year each, an industrial scale of operation.

Anyone put in such a ministerial role could be expected to produce a catastrophe; even the young Winston Churchill would have created another Gallipoli. Agriculture, like the Department of Health, is a natural graveyard for political reputations.

The ideal minister would be tough, flexible, cynical, administratively effective and politically adroit. Perhaps Steve Norris would have been suitable. Douglas Hogg shares the disability that undid Virginia Bottomley — another professional person — when she was responsible for the National Health Service. He tries to make rational sense of the information his officials give him. There is nothing rational about food policy. The minister is the madame of a brothel of special interests, with branches all over Europe.

Douglas Hogg has to supervise the 400 killing factories for animals; he is responsible if children eating the hamburgers which are the end-product catch diseases from the carcasses that are produced. When animals are herded together to be killed, they beshit themselves; there is nothing Douglas Hogg can do to prevent that; he cannot put them all into nappies. An abattoir is a very horrible place, and 400 such abattoirs, controlled by bureaucrats, are an inferno. This is not Hogg territory; it is altogether remote from the world of briefs for counsel, writs, Bills, amendments on third reading and advocates' points to which he belongs. Indeed, the House of Commons *itself does not belong to the* same world as this inferno of blood, death, faeces and bureaucratic regulations.

Almost certainly, the whole policy is wrong: wrong in Europe, wrong in the regulations, wrong in the ministry, wrong in the structure of enforcement, wrong in the organisation of the animal-killing business. There is little reason to think that the Labour Party will be any better at these nasty bits of confused administration than the Conservatives have been. Perhaps John Prescott could handle it; he is streetwise and not easily shocked. Yet I suspect that abattoirs are as remote from Tony Blair's life as they are from Douglas Hogg's. Someone in government will need to get a grip on the problem, because the health issues, both of *E.coli* and BSE, are real and serious enough. It is not only animals who are killed by badly-run abattoirs.

The abattoir scandal has done great political damage to the Government, particularly as the general election is so close. It touches on so many things that worry people. It touches on personal responsibility. No politician has resigned over the mismanagement of "mad cow" disease, which started long before Douglas Hogg reached the ministry; Douglas has not resigned over the abattoirs. I am sure his reputation would be higher if he had.

There is also the public resentment at the growing impotence of government. Too many ministers seem to be merely frontmen for their departments, rather than being the masters. Douglas Hogg never saw a key report; he was never shown a key letter. Who is the boss in the ministry? Indeed, is there a boss, or is it all a chaos of interaction between British and European bureaucrats, and between farmers and people who run abattoirs?

My sympathy for Douglas is that he is the wrong man for what is in any case an impossible job. He understands the world of the English professions: that is an honourable and useful world; the other world of the common agricultural policy and the Meat Hygiene Service is something quite different; the culture gap is as complete as though he were made to answer from the Treasury bench for the affairs of Albania. There is a mismatch between his genuine abilities and the nature of the work he has to do. But there is also a warning in this for Tony Blair. The electorate is about to hand over this *mess to new Labour.* That will not make things any better; a tougher minister may perform with more skill, but there will be no answers. The new Labour Minister of Agriculture is *likely* to be as great a disaster as Douglas.

A letter from **King Hussein** to **Binyamin Netanyahu**, the Prime Minister of Israel

King Hussein of Jordan's letter of March 9 to the Israeli Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu is one of the most extraordinary documents of recent Middle Eastern history, writes Christopher Walker. *It was written after the Sandhurst-trained monarch had slammed the telephone down on Mr Netanyahu in mid-conversation. Its personal tone is the more telling because its 61-year-old author is known as the most restrained, polite and protocol-minded statesman in the region. Behind his feeling of betrayal lies a conviction that his own complex relations with Jordan's 60 per cent Palestinian majority might undermine the stability of his throne. The letter reads:*

Prime Minister,

My distress is genuine and deep over the accumulating tragic actions which you have initiated as the head of the Government of Israel, making peace — the worthiest objective of my life — appear more and more like a distant elusive mirage. I could remain aloof if the very lives of all Arabs and Israelis and their future were not fast sliding towards an abyss of bloodshed and disaster, brought about by fear and despair.

I frankly cannot accept your repeated excuse of having to act the way you do under great duress and pressure. I cannot believe that the people of Israel seek bloodshed and disaster and oppose peace. Nor can I believe that the most constitutionally powerful Prime Minister in Israeli history would act on other than his total convictions. The saddest reality that has been dwning on me is that I do not find you by my side in working to fulfil God's will for the final reconciliation of all the descendants of the children of Abraham.

Your course of actions seems bent on destroying all I believe in or have striven to achieve [. . .] You cannot send me assurances that you would not sanction any further construction of settlements, and tell me of your decision to construct two roads to help all concerned Israelis and Palestinians alike and then renege on your commitment. In pushing matters to the point of securing a US veto at the Security Council, you have ill served the image and interest of your major ally and benefactor and our partner in peacemaking as the honest balanced peace broker.

Mr Prime Minister, if it is your intention to manoeuvre our Palestinian brethren into inevitable violent resistance, then order your bulldozers into the proposed settlement site [. . .] order the young Israeli members of your powerful armed forces surrounding Palestinian towns to commit wanton murder and mayhem, possibly resulting in yet a fresh exodus of hapless Palestinians from their, and their ancestors', homeland, and bury the peace process for all time.

On the question of your withdrawal from territories, you have committed Israel, before the US, Jordan and the world, *to complete the process by* mid-1998. What good did it serve to offer such an insignificant first phase withdrawal? Why the apparent continued deliberate humiliation of your so-called Palestinian partners? Can any worthwhile relationship thrive inthe absence of mutual respect and trust? [. . .] Finally, the Gaza airport — all of us have addressed the subject *numerous times with a view to hav*ing a legitimate Palestinian need met and to give their leaders and people their own free access to the world rather than their present confinement and need to exit and return through other sovereign territories.

I had requested permission and intended to fly President Arafat myself [. . .] to the Palestinian airport of Gaza as I had requested *earlier,* during my Hebron intervention, [. . .] accepting your refusal then only because there were far more important issues at hand.

I anticipated your positive response this time. I believed it would have helped improve the atmosphere considerably, but alas, it was not to be. Now, suppose I had taken off nonetheless for Gaza [. . .] would you have ordered my fellow pilots in the Israeli Air Force [. . .] to prevent me forcibly from landing or worse?

You will never know how close you came to having to make a decision on the subject [. . .] How can I work with you as a partner and true friend in this confused and confusing atmosphere when I sense an intent to destroy all I worked to build between our peoples and states. Stubbornness over real issues is one thing, but for its own sake, I wonder. In any event, I have discovered that you have your own mindset and appear in no need for any advice from a friend. I deeply regret having to write you this personal message but it is my sense of responsibility and concern which has prompted me for posterity to do so in the face of the unknown.

Sincerely, Hussein.

For his part, Mr Netanyahu fired off a strong reply on Monday, stressing the precariousness of his own domestic position. "Despite tremendous resistance from some of my own constituency, I have chosen the path of the Oslo process," he noted. "I have always appreciated the courage and resolve with which you have helped keep the peace process alive. I hold you in the highest esteem and I value your friendship and understanding. That is why I must confess that I am baffled by the personal level of the attacks against me."

DIARY

Keep it flying

ONE of Oxford's greatest pubs, the Lamb and Flag on St Giles', is to close. After more than four hundred years, St John's College, which owns the site, wants it back to build more accommodation.

Since 1617, the young gowns of John's have taken refuge in the Flag's dark oak stalls. There the likes of J.R.R. Tolkien, Philip Larkin, Kingsley Amis, and even Tony Blair would loaf around doodling on the beermats.

If John's gets its way, the Lamb and Flag will be converted into tutorial rooms and student digs when the current lease expires in September. "There are already a large number of pubs in the city and a number of new sites have opened," reads a flinty statement from the college. "It cannot be argued therefore that there is any shortage of pubs in the city centre."

Despite its recent reputation as a pub for bores, heavy-metal fans and confused Japanese tourists, its closure has inspired a spasm of student revolt. The John's Junior Common Room president, Fiona Rumboll, plans a rearguard action: "I've not spoken to a single member of college who approves of this scheme, even if would mean more housing. We will be lodging a formal objection with the council shortly."

Shoehorned

THERE may at last be a solution to the embarrassing failure of Alan Howarth, MP, Tony Blair's prized Tory defector, to find a safe Labour seat. Sir Geoffrey Lofthouse, the Deputy Speaker and Labour MP for Pontefract and Castleford, is preparing to announce his retirement as soon as the election is called. Howarth could then be imposed as the candidate by Labour's National Executive, there being no time for the local party to go through the usual selection process.

The former Tory minister is already in the running for the Newport East vacancy, but may well not get it. If Sir Geoffrey goes suddenly — problem solved.

● *These are hard times at London Weekend Television, home of the likes of Melvyn Bragg. Employees have received a memo from on high telling them that when entertaining people for lunch, they should spend no more than £4.81 per head, barely half a starter in a London restaurant.*

Green bile

AN extraordinary *ad hominem* attack on A.N. Wilson appears in this week's *Catholic Herald*, written by William Oddie. Reviewing Wilson's new book *Paul: The Mind of the Apostle* and his life of Jesus, Oddie is in wafer-snapping mode. He calls Wilson, who once trained for the Anglican ministry, "an apostate from Christianity". His book is dismissed as a "literary junk shop", processed "through the recycling plant of his novelist's imagination."

Wilson's assumption of the scholarly manner is an "unusually skilful pastiche, even a sustained hoax," though Oddie deems some of the passages too wild for even the serious hoaxer. The gravest accusation comes in the final paragraph: "It would not surprise me at all to learn that these two books were written in green ink on lined Basildon Bond." Heavy stuff.

● *Before deciding how many copies to make of its new video, the Referendum Party was ordered by Sir James Goldsmith to find out which was the highest-ever selling film on video in Britain.* The Jungle Book, *apparently, sold 4.3 million copies. So the order came: five million copies or bust.*

Desk space

OFFICIALS working for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague have been scrabbling round the Tricycle Theatre in Kilburn for courtroom furniture. Last October, the theatre staged a production of *Srebrenica*, a play featuring a replica of the courtroom that will be used. The new tribunal will need more desks than the court currently has, so it made financial sense to borrow a desk from Kilburn. "We wanted the same design for legal reasons," says Monsieur Shartier of the tribunal.

But there's one problem: "We need it back before September," says the Tricycle's artistic director Nicholas Kent, "because we're taking the play on tour to Ireland in September."

All made up

GUESTS at the London Restaurant Awards on Tuesday night were kept waiting for nearly two hours for the arrival of Claudia Schiffer, model. She was putting on her face.

Schiffer: at last

Having flown in on a private jet from the Paris shows, Miss Schiffer vanished up to her suite at the Park Lane Hotel with her stylist, who had arrived from New York. Due to appear around 7.15, she finally tottered down in pink at 9. The final insult was that her lousy Fashion Café in Leicester Square won an award for Best Theme Restaurant.

P·H·S

A HOGG'S BREAKFAST

Ministers should have known more and acted earlier

Foods have not been a glorious subject for this Government. One week ago, the Agriculture Minister Douglas Hogg was obliged to defend standards in Britain's abattoirs after a highly critical report from his own Hygiene Action Team finally surfaced. On that outing he told Parliament that the failure of ministers to see the document concerned was of little consequence; that publication of this material was unnecessary; that the failure to pass his paperwork to Professor Hugh Pennington did not matter; and that the public should have confidence in present procedures.

That claim commanded little support in the House of Commons or outside. A second wave of revelations this time concerning correspondence between Peter Comrie, general secretary of the Association of Meat Inspectors, and Angela Browning, a junior minister at his department, brought Mr Hogg to the dispatch box again. Mr Comrie had warned Mrs Browning that dispatches he had received from meat inspectors suggested serious irregularities in a number of abattoirs, considerable intimidation of inspectors by those institutions, and relative indifference towards such malpractice by elements of the Meat Hygiene Service. If not quite the "potential time bomb" as described by Mr Comrie, it was obviously a disturbing picture and one which, this time, ministers could not claim ignorance of.

In his statement yesterday, Mr Hogg largely ignored the documentation that has forced him to his feet for the second time in six days. Insofar as he dealt with it at all, it was to question the competence and standing of Mr Comrie. This follows an unfortunate pattern that has all too often occurred on such occasions. Last week, the minister was swift to suggest that Bill Swann, author of the damning Health Advisory Team inquiry, did not enjoy the backing of his peers. He then implied that it had been the responsibility of Professor Pennington to acquire a copy of a report that the Ministry of Agriculture had failed to send to him.

However, as Mr Comrie's letters were based on information brought to him by his members in the field, the adverse comments on him personally cited by Mr Hogg were irrelevant. His charges can only be dismissed if he fabricated the allegations on which they were based. Unless Mr Hogg is prepared to accuse him of that, then Mr Comrie's concerns deserve a proper response. They have not received a satisfactory reaction so far.

Despite the limited attention granted to these fresh allegations, Mr Hogg tried to strike a rather different tone this week. A ministry that has previously regarded the publication of data relevant to consumers as an inconvenience now brimmed with ideas. Mr Hogg announced that an information paper would be presented to the House of Commons "within days". He expressed enthusiasm for league tables of abatoire performance. He pledged fresh information for Professor Pennington. He promised that the findings of the Meat Hygiene Service would be openly available "on a regular basis". In addition, the minister outlined an eight-point action plan to ensure that standards in Britain's abattoirs continue to rise from their less-than-inspiring base.

It would appear that there is now a credible strategy emerging for enhancing food safety standards and that it will receive adequate publicity. The measures outlined by the ministers, rather belatedly, should have an additional, beneficial impact. This has happened despite the instincts of the Ministry of Agriculture. Mr Hogg has single-handedly failed to inform the public on these matters. The Meat Hygiene Service was rightly created to implement a national approach to the quality of abatoirrs. If it is to succeed then it must be detached from a failed ministry and placed under the auspices of a new independent body.

JOLLY GOOD FELLOWS

Men at High Table can help the cause of women's education

The thin end of the wedge can sometimes be a brake on the bad, rather than a portent of worse. The prospect of male fellows joining the hitherto all-female High Table at St Hilda's College, Oxford, might seem a melancholy concession to conformity and a defeat for pluralist principles. The college's undergraduate body, as our Education Correspondent reports, appear almost to a woman opposed. They are understandably anxious to preserve St Hilda's, a single-sex foundation since 1893, as an establishment shaped to women's needs in a world very far from equal. Admitting men to the Senior Common Room might not, however, mean welcoming a Trojan horse so much as recruiting valuable allies. The presence of male fellows need not threaten the cause of women's education.

St Hilda's has acquired an enviable reputation, educating the Education Secretary as well as grooming the Channel 4 newsreader Zeinab Badawi. It has been committed throughout its life to providing an environment where women can retreat from university life and study free of distraction, but its capacity to thrive with its current constitution is uncertain.

St Hilda's was one of five women's colleges at Oxford but now stands alone. The success of coeducation in colleges formally all-male has made it more difficult for women's colleges to preserve their distinctiveness. Since women were held to be competing on terms of apparent equality elsewhere, the need for an exclusively single sex route to Oxford was questioned. That need is, however, greater than ever. Although many older colleges have exerted themselves to attract women some have been slow to embrace equality of opportunity. Women, especially from state schools, still need every encouragement to apply to Oxford but the need for St Hilda's to stay single-sex is more than a matter of entrance arithmetic, it should be a point of principle.

A distinguished tradition of women scholars, most notably the recently deceased historian Dame Veronica Wedgwood and the literary critics Helen Gardner and Elizabeth Mackenzie, have benefited from the distinctive ethos of the women's colleges. That tradition should not be allowed to fade, for the good of both female academics and the university as a whole. Oxford depends on diversity to keep its character. Coeducation appears to have increased competition for places and raised academic standards, but it has seen the fabric of the university become less colourful and, if anything, more subfusc. The more distinctive the character of each college, the more successful the entire academic community is likely to be. That need not mean St Hilda's is automatically handicapping itself in the battle to secure the best academic results. Newnham, Cambridge, is all-female and came comfortably in the top half of that university's colleges in 1995 finals rankings.

St Hilda's, however, faces a hard financial future unless it admits men to its Senior Common Room. Other colleges have their fellows part-funded from the central university chest, but that option is not open to St Hilda's because it can only offer fellowships to women and equal opportunities legislation prevents the university funding single-sex appointments. St Hilda's does not have the resources of richer colleges and funding fellowships is inevitably a strain. By accepting men to the SCR, and with them central university funding, St Hilda's would put itself on a stronger footing and be better able to preserve the special undergraduate character its current generation of students are so understandably anxious to defend.

MR PETERS CHANGES NAMES

New Zealand could benefit from a new name

Ancient Maori pioneers sailed across the South Pacific about 1,000 years ago and named their misty new homeland Aotearoa — land of the long white cloud. And so the name remained, until 1642 when Abel Tasman arrived and changed the name to New Zealand, in honour of his home in The Netherlands. But the ancient name may now return. Maori leaders are preparing a lawsuit to reassert their demand for a change first proposed in 1991. And with Winston Peters, part Maori, now Deputy Prime Minister, the Government in Wellington may well acknowledge the force of the Maori argument.

There is, of course, a useful side-effect to any change: New Zealand would move 14 places up the alphabet. The Aotearoa team would be one of the first to march out in the Olympic parade. Its delegation would sit in the front row of the United Nations. It would top statistical tables and Internet menus. Children, unlikely to receive much post from Afghanistan, Albania or Algeria, would start their stamp collections with colourful sets from Aotearoa.

Changing a country's name, however, is rarely popular. History is erased, geography confused. Some former colonies have returned, successfully, to earlier historic identities: Northern and Southern Rhodesia, overlooking the disadvantage of coming last in any list, have recalled the pre-colonial glories of Zambia and Zimbabwe. Few countries accept being named after foreigners, nor do they want to be a nostalgic echo of some faraway home. "New" is out of fashion. The New Hebrides and New Caledonia have gone; New Spain became Mexico; New Amsterdam decided it would remain nouveau but opt for something snappier; and New Guinea is already halfway through a metamorphosis.

Names given in ignorance are more enduring: Canada derives, according to the dictionary, "from an erroneous interpretation of the American-indian word *canada* or *canata*, 'huts, hovels', which the earliest explorers took for a place-name." Massachussetts has many apocryphal derivations.Some new names have a ring that has stuck: Burkina Faso means "Land of Upright Men", and if that is what the hardy souls of Upper Volta consider themselves, so be it. Ibn Saud called a huge desert after himself.

Queen Victoria, however, was less successful in commemorating a dynasty. She reportedly tried to rename India Alberta. Her advisers urged the mourning widow to choose somewhere less momentous for her late, dear husband — a patch of Canadian wilderness, perhaps. And so she did.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Political import of Archbishop's sermon in Jerusalem

From Sir Michael Latham

Sir, A full reading in context of the Archbishop of Canterbury's sermon on March 11 at St George's Cathedral, Jerusalem, where the Christian population is nearly all Palestinian, does not, in our view, justify your editorial criticisms of him (March 12), still less the headline over Christopher Walker's report ("Carey supports Palestinian state in sermon from Jerusalem pulpit").

Dr Carey very properly emphasised that both Jews and Palestinians have aspirations regarding "the Holy Land". Although he spoke of a homeland, at no point did he use the phrase "Palestinian state". He also stressed that both peoples have suffered and that their aspirations can only be met through negotiation and compromise.

He explicitly condemned inflammatory words and external funding of extremist groups. He also dealt with other troubled places of the world. His sermon was delivered in specifically Christian terms of prayer and reconciliation.

Most Christians who support the State of Israel will welcome the Archbishop's sermon, with its emphasis that lasting peace can only come from the continuation and development of the Oslo Process. While there can be proper differences about the wisdom of Israeli settlement policy, an extraordinary amount has already been achieved in bringing Israelis and Palestinians together over the last few years.

No one of goodwill believes that there can be any going back, and that was at the heart of the Archbishop's message.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL LATHAM
(Joint Honorary Treasurer),
The Council of Christians and Jews,
Drayton House,
30 Gordon Street, WC1.
March 12.

From Mr Wade Mansell

Sir, Your leader today seems rather less temperate than Archbishop Carey's measured sermon in Jerusalem. What he said reflected the clearest possible position in international law.

The proposed Israeli action to build houses upon land which has been annexed is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, which proscribes the acquisition of land through conquest. It is therefore also contrary to the laws relating to belligerent occupation to be found in the 1949 Geneva Convention, which requires an occupying power to change the existing order as little as possible during the occupation.

It is also contrary to the wishes of the entire Security Council but for the United States — and even the United States expressed dismay at this latest development.

Now is not the time for discreet silence. When the abuse of international law is manifest, and both the rights and the wrongs are clear, an Anglican Archbishop is surely under an obligation to lend his support to the wronged and the oppressed. His courage in doing so is to be applauded.

Yours faithfully,
WADE MANSELL,
Kent Law School,
Eliot College,
University of Kent at Canterbury,
Canterbury, Kent.
March 12.

From Dr Andrew Purkis

Sir, The Archbishop of Canterbury did not "offer strong support for a particular form of secular territorial outcome" as your leading article puts it. On the contrary, he asserted that the Anglican Primates did not come to Jerusalem with any ready-made answers, and that the clash of Israeli and Palestinian dreams, with both of which one could feel the deepest sympathy, could be resolved only through "honourable compromise".

He reiterated a previous appeal by British Church leaders, similar to Pope John Paul II's on Sunday, for an end to the building and expansion of settlements because, as he put it:

> We look on with anguish as new actions on either side appear to undermine the peace process. The current crisis with regard to new settlements in East Jerusalem is just one of these.

The whole sermon was a sustained reflection on praying for the peace of Jerusalem: anything less like an "outburst" is hard to imagine.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW PURKIS
(The Archbishop of Canterbury's
Secretary for Public Affairs),
Lambeth Palace, SE1.
March 12.

From Professor Bryan Reuben

Sir, You are to be congratulated on your editorial on the Archbishop of Canterbury's ill-considered sermon in Jerusalem. The issue, however, goes deeper than you suggested.

The Arabs controlled East Jerusalem between 1948 and 1967 and expelled all the Jews living there. That was how it became "Arab" East Jerusalem. No access to Jewish holy places was permitted. The Jewish quarter and most of the historic synagogues were destroyed. A road and a hotel were built on the Mount of Olives cemetery and tombstones used in houses and a latrine.

Christians were also harassed: according to British and Jordanian census figures which I have seen quoted, the Christian proportion of the population dropped from 48 per cent in 1946 to 18 per cent in 1961. Even Muslims suffered.

In those 19 years I do not recollect any serious pressure from the then Archbishop (or from the young George Carey, but I hope I am wrong) for religious freedom. Nor do I hear definitive promises of open access to holy places from PLO spokesmen nowadays. Israeli objections to handing over any part of Jerusalem to Arab control are not based on paranoia or intransigence: they are based on bitter experience.

Yours etc,
BRYAN REUBEN,
7 Clarence Avenue, SW4.
March 12.

Sentencing burglars

From the Chair of the Penal Affairs Consortium

Sir, Baroness Blatch claims (letter, March 10; see also letters, February 19, 24, 28) that there is "no evidence of any significant progression" in the sentencing for repeat burglars. Using figures based on a sample of convictions in 1994, the average sentence on a third or subsequent conviction is 19 months, compared with 15 months for first offenders.

Averages can of course be misleading: a first conviction for a professional burglary of high value is more serious than a third offence of stealing a milk bottle through an open window. Nevertheless, these figures show a 27 per cent higher average sentence on a third conviction than on a first offence.

While it is legitimate to sentence repeat burglars more heavily, it would be wrong to increase sentences out of all proportion to the seriousness of the current offence.

The Crime (Sentences) Bill shifts sentencing in this undesirable direction by applying a minimum three-year sentence to third-time domestic burglary, while simultaneously requiring courts to reduce other sentences by one third to compensate for changed rules on early release. The current "starting point" of five years for a single rape without additional aggravating circumstances would be cut to just over three years, and this could be further reduced if there were mitigating circumstances.

While domestic burglary can be a serious and very distressing offence, I believe that to equate it to rape for sentencing purposes is wholly inconsistent with any sensible scale of values.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL CAVADINO,
Chair,
Penal Affairs Consortium,
169 Clapham Road, SW9.
March 10.

Devolution debate

From Mr William M. Clarke

Sir, Amid all the turmoil about a single currency for Europe and its impact on sovereignty, neither your leading article, nor *The Times* Guide to Election Issues: Scotland (March 10), nor any of your recent correspondents on Scottish devolution [February 15, 21, 25, 28 and March 6] has raised the question of Scotland's currency. Yet an independent Scottish pound, supported by Scotland's own resources and finding its own currency level against sterling, would be the one thing that would bring Scotland real independence, and relieve English taxpayers of a burden they could well do without.

Just as with Europe, sovereignty is tied to currency independence, yet those in favour of independence or devolution for Scotland do not seem to emphasise enough this crucial question. True independence for Scotland means running your own fiscal and monetary affairs, not just seeking a representative parliament in Edinburgh

Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM CLARKE,
37 Park Vista, Greenwich, SE10.
March 10.

Albanian struggle

From Sir Reginald Hibbert

Sir, In his report, "British war hero backs honest Berisha" (March 7), your Defence Correspondent mentioned that Colonel Smiley's book, *Albanian Assignment*, had been translated into Albanian because it was seen as such an important record of the war. It can safely be assumed that it also enjoyed the imprimatur of President Berisha.

My own book about the war in Albania, *Albania's National Liberation Struggle*, received no such blessing. General Çopani, the new Chief of Staff, who was at that time the colonel heading the military staff in President Berisha's office, made it clear to me in 1992 that my book was politically incorrect and unwelcome. Nevertheless it was later translated into Albanian and published in a pirate edition which sold nearly 20,000 copies.

The contrast between the two books is, on a small scale, a model of the divisions which rack Albania. Both are valid in their own way, Smiley's based on the "nationalist" experience, mine on the Partisan experience. Both are widely read in Albania, which shows that both traditions have wide support and that neither can be excluded from Albanian political life.

The severe political crisis afflicting Albania is largely due to one side trying to exclude the other. Enver Hoxha did it for some forty years. Berisha, from a much weaker power base, has been trying to do it for five.

The Albanian people need and deserve a political framework designed to include rather than exclude. This is what they are now demanding in a rough Albanian way from President Berisha. His refusal to concede it and his insistence on branding all those who demand it as Marxists, communists and traitors has been leading day by day to greater disaster.

Yours faithfully,
REGINALD HIBBERT,
Frondeg,
Pennal, Machynlleth, Powys.
March 10.

Assisted places

From the General Secretary of the Independent Schools Joint Council

Sir, The letter from the Shadow Secretary of State for Education (March 10), reaffirming his party's policy of phasing out the Assisted Places Scheme, sadly demonstrates that there is to be no real meeting of minds on bridging the gap between the independent and state sectors of education.

Mr Blunkett declares that the £161 million saving would pay for a reduction in class sizes to a maximum of 30 throughout the first three years of primary school. The latest independent research, by the Institute of Public Finance, puts the cost of reducing class sizes at £490 million.

Recent research at the London School of Economics has shown that assisted-place pupils do better by up to three grades at A level than their contemporaries of comparable ability in other schools. It matters greatly to the independent sector that education of this quality should be open to those best equipped to take advantage of it, regardless of family circumstances. The average annual income of parents in the scheme is £10,900.

The fundamental principle is that choice of school is a matter for parents, not politicians, and the more choice they have the better. The irony is that, as a recent MORI poll has shown, a majority of Labour voters agree and would wish to see assisted places retained.

Yours etc,
ARTHUR HEARNDEN,
General Secretary,
Independent Schools Joint Council,
35-37 Grosvenor Gardens, SW1.
March 10.

EU single market

From Mr Maritz Vandenberg

Sir, Today's *Times* (Your own business, March 11) reports that of 5,000 small and medium-sized businesses questioned in all EU countries a majority were negative about their past experience of the European single market, British firms overwhelmingly so; and that only 7 per cent of British and 6 per cent of German companies believed that economic and monetary union would have a positive impact.

But on another page (Business news, later editions) you report that an assemblage of boardroom worthies have warned that Britain's best interests demand a continued commitment to the EU.

The triumph of hope over experience?

Yours faithfully,
M. VANDENBERG,
21a Gwendolen Avenue, SW15.
March 11.

Business letters, page 27

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Cloning limitations

From Mr Alan Challoner

Sir, Some scientists seem to believe that because there has been a discovery of a possible intervention into the natural biological process of human kind, there should be opportunities for using it.

Also, using clones to reproduce a much-loved child, as has quite rightly been ruled out by Ruth Deech, of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (report, March 6), would be no more successful than might be expected from a child produced through normal fertilisation. A child is not just a product of its genes. Every moment of foetal life, and every moment of childhood, creates individuality that cannot be reproduced by cloning.

The time has come when scientists should consider using their undoubted abilities for preventing the gradual worsening of our physical and emotional environment, rather than interfering with natural selection and evolution.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN CHALLONER,
13 The Village,
Bodelwyddan, Denbighshire.
March 11.

Waiving cost of criminal checks

From Lord Weatherill

Sir, Former Speakers should not be involved in party politics. However, in the light of my involvement with numerous volunteering organisations, I felt impelled to seek an amendment to Part V of the Police Bill, which sets up a national Criminal Records Agency. My amendments, which were adopted by the Lords (report, December 3, 1996), waived the fees for criminal-record checks for volunteers. I understand that on Thursday the Government will seek to reverse them.

Both the Government and the Labour Party acknowledge the value of volunteers to society, but neither seems to recognise the immense financial damage which will be done to organisations such as the Scouts, the Winged Fellowship, The Wildlife Trust, St John's Ambulance and the Scripture Union if volunteers are charged for criminal-record checks. The Scouts will face an annual new bill of £500,000.

The Government has promised to bring in an order to provide free checks for volunteers at some unspecified time, when and if a government feels it can afford it. The problem is that voluntary organisations will have to deal with this new cost from day one: the damage to services will be done in the first 12 months.

Although there is no statutory obligation for the police to check volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults, voluntary organisations know that they will be expected by parents, insurers and the public to do so. Police checks are no substitute for the good recruitment and supervision policies which most organisations already apply. The huge costs which they will incur mean that the future operations of some organisations will be threatened.

The Government's suggestion that volunteers should pay is not acceptable to voluntary organisations. They strive always to reimburse volunteers' expenses in line with government advice.

Surely it would be wrong to invite those who give their time voluntarily to numerous organisations to pay for what will in effect be a certificate of innocence. The latest realistic estimate would be £8 million a year.

I would urge the Government to use my amendments to demonstrate their support for volunteering and find the money from public funds.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD WEATHERILL,
House of Lords.
March 11.

Adding insult to injury

From Professor John Fletcher

Sir, The prisons are bursting at the seams but that has not prevented my house being burgled or led to the offender being caught.

To make them think twice about paying a return visit I have installed an alarm. In today's world that seems an unavoidable impost. But with VAT levied on top I feel I am being taxed twice.

Since sending people to jail is apparently not curbing crime, would it not be both cheaper and more effective to waive VAT on my burglar alarm?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN FLETCHER,
University of East Anglia,
School of Modern Languages
and European Studies,
Norwich NR4 7TJ.
March 11.

'Kitchen slavery'

From Miss Wendy Mullins

Sir, What a little gem Mr Zoob sounds (letters, March 11 and 12). One is left to speculate whether this relaxed and biddable paragon shares his idyll with junior Zoobs. Or would he be driven to groom the couscous, eat the cat, stuff the dishwasher, clean the flowers and place a tasteful laundry arrangement on the freshly-ironed desk?

Yours sincerely,
WENDY MULLINS,
24 Barton Road, Cambridge.
March 12.

From Mr Chris Hardy

Sir, Speaking as a long-time friend of Mr Zoob, could his exemplary behaviour be prompted by the imminent arrival of the cricket season?

Yours sincerely,
C. M. HARDY,
57 Waldram Park Road,
Forest Hill, SE23.
March 12.

Stops and starts

From Mr Tony Garland

Sir, Mr Graham Ramsay need have no concern (letter, March 10) about Swindon rapidly approaching his train. It all depends on your frame of reference, as Einstein might have said, possibly after inquiring of a porter at Euston: "Excuse me, does Crewe go past this train?"

Yours faithfully,
TONY GARLAND,
46 Abbots Way,
North Shields, Tyne and Wear.
March 10.

COURT CIRCULAR

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE

March 11: The Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief, this afternoon visited A Company, 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, Long Kesh Barracks, Aldergrove.

His Royal Highness later visited B Company, Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn and D Company, Lisnaskea Barracks, Lisnaskea, County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland.

The Duchess of Kent this afternoon visited Banbridge High School, Primrose Gardens, Banbridge, County Down, Northern Ireland and was met on arrival *by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant* for County Down (Mr William Hall).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

March 12: His Excellency Mr Richard Matrenza was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Commission as High Commissioner for Malta in London.

Mrs Matrenza was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

The Queen received Fellows participating in the Commonwealth Foundation Fellowship Scheme to promote Commonwealth Understanding.

Dr Humayun Khan (Director of the Commonwealth Foundation) was present.

The Duke of Edinburgh this *morning left Mongolia and flew* to Japan.

This afternoon His Royal Highness arrived in Okinawa.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President *Emeritus, World Wide Fund* for Nature — WWF International, this evening attended a Reception *for Work Wide* Fund for Nature at the Harbourview Hotel.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

March 12: *The* Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, this evening attended a *Dinner at St James's Palace.*

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

March 12: The Princess Royal this *morning departed* Muscat for Nizwa and Jimah, where Her Royal Highness carried out engagements.

The Princess Royal this afternoon visited the *Wahiba Sands* Water Project in Al Hawiya.

Her Royal Highness later *returned to Muscat.*

The Princess Royal this evening departed Muscat for London.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

March 12: The Prince of Wales this morning arrived at Royal Air *Force Lyneham from New York.* Dr Manon Williams was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

March 12: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, The Guide Association, held a Reception at Kensington Palace this afternoon following the *presentation of* Brooches to those who have become Queen's Guides.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE

March 12: The Duke of Kent, Visitor, this evening attended *the annual Court Dinner, at Cran*field University, Cranfield, Bedfordshire.

The Duchess of Kent, on behalf of The Queen, held an Investiture *at Hillsborough Castle, County* Down, Northern Ireland, this morning.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
RICHMOND PARK

March 12: Princess Alexandra this evening attended a Gala Evening for the Museum of Scotland in the Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh.

Royal engagements

The Duke of Kent will open Caradon Terrain, Aylesford, Kent, at 11.30; will open the Kent Training and Enterprise Council's new building at King's Hill, West *Malling, at 2.00; and, as trustee,* will attend the Science Museum annual dinner, Exhibition Road, SW7, at 7.30.

Princess Alexandra, as patron, will visit the Imperial Cancer Research Fund shop at Nicolson Street, Edinburgh, at 10.30.

Today's anniversaries

BIRTHS: Joseph Priestley, clergyman and scientist, Birstall, York*shire*, 1733; *Charles Grey*, 2nd Earl Grey, Prime Minister 1830-34, Fallodon, Northumberland, 1764; Thomas Henry Tizard, oceanographer and navigator, Weymouth, 1839; *Percival Lowell, astronomer,* Boston, Massachusetts, 1855; Sir Hugh Walpole, novelist, Auckland, New Zealand, 1884.

DEATHS: Richard Burbage, actor, London, 1619; Sophia Lee, novelist and dramatist, Clifton, Gloucestershire, 1824; John Frederic Daniell, chemist, inventor of the electric cell, London, 1845; Alexander II, Tsar of Russia 1855-81, assassinated *St Petersburg*, 1881; Benjamin Harrison, 23rd American President 1889-93, Indianapolis, 1901; Lucien Lévy-Bruhl, philosopher, Paris, 1939; Angela Brazil, writer of girls' school stories, Coventry, 1947.

Sir William Herschell discovered the planet Uranus, 1781.

The first commercial air route was *established across Africa after* Alan Cobham landed at Croydon aerodrome having completed the 16,000-*mile flight from* Cape Town, 1926.

At a by-election in Bridgwater, *Somerset, 18-year-olds were* eligible to vote for the first time in Britain, 1970.

Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris was opened, 1974.

Dinners

Prime Minister

The Prime Minister, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was the host at a dinner held on Tuesday at the Banqueting House, Whitehall, *in honour of* India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

Gardeners' Company

Mr Michael Heseltine, MP, was present at the spring court dinner of the Gardeners' Company held last night at *Drapers' Hall. Mr I.B.* Flanagan, Master, presided, assisted by the wardens. Professor *Sir Ghillean Prance,* FRS, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and Liveryman Mrs Christine Cohen also spoke. The Master also presented the Gardeners' *Company prizes to students from* Kew Gardens and Capel Manor.

HM Government

Mr Michael Portillo, Secretary of State for Defence, was the host at a dinner given by Her Majesty's *Government last night* at Lancaster House to mark the forthcoming handover of Chief of the Defence Staff from Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge to General Sir *Charles* Guthrie. The President and the Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, Nato Chiefs of Defence Staff and the Nato Supreme Allied Commander *Europe were present.*

Farmers' Company

Mr Marcus Cornish, Master of the Farmers' Company, presided at a ladies' dinner held last night at Barber-Surgeons' Hall. The Master also presented the Livery Salver to Mr Jeremy Courtney for services to the company.

Institute of Wastes Management

Mrs Helen Toft, President of the Institute of Wastes Management, *presided at the annual dinner* held last night at the Institution of Civil Engineers. Herr Ludwig Kramer, Head of Directorate E, DGXI, the European Commission, was guest speaker. *Baroness Hilton* of Eggardon was presented with an honorary fellowship of the institute by the president.

Canada Club

The High Commissioner for Canada presided at a dinner of the Canada Club held last night at the Savoy Hotel in honour of Mr Jacques de Larosière, President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Sir Nicholas Bayne and Sir Kit McMahon also spoke.

Cornhill Club

The Lord Mayor *proposed* the toast to The Cornhill Club at the 55th annual dinner held last night at the Mansion House. Mr John Mabberley presided and Sir Brian Pitman, Chairman of Lloyds TSB Group PLC, was the principal speaker. 230 senior representatives *of major* banks and City financial institutions attended.

The Chartered Insurance Institute

Mr Bryan Kellett, FCII, President of The Chartered Insurance Institute, was the host at a dinner, held yesterday at Guildhall, to mark the centenary of the meeting that led to formation of The Chartered Insurance Institute. Alderman Sir Alexander Graham and Alderman Sir Greville Spratt were the speakers. Mr Ken Davidson, LLB (Hons), ACII, ACIArb, Mr Philip Rhodes, ACII, and Dr David Bland, PhD, FCII, FSCA, FIPD, were among the guests.

ANDRÉ CAMARA

Caroline Duport, 18, of the corps de ballet of English National Ballet, being fitted yesterday by Peter Farmer, production designer, for Derek Deane's new *Swan Lake* in-the-round at the Albert Hall. The first of 12 performances is on May 29

School news

The Godolphin School, Salisbury

The Governors of The Godolphin *School are pleased to announce the* following Academic Scholarships for September 1997:

11+: Katherine Barnes, Godolphin Prep; Harriet Booker, Norman Court; Katherine Coleman, Harnham Junior; Elizabeth Craner, Godolphin Prep; Natasha Jones, Prince's Mead; Jessica Meins, The Study; Verity Miller, Godolphin Prep; *Fiona Reeve, St-Margaret's,* Calne; Natalia Roszkowski, Leaden Hall; *Sarah Russ, Knighton House.*

11+ combined Academic and Music Awards: *Eleanor Beer, Leaden Hall;* Georgina Wood, Godolphin Prep.

12+: *Felicity Coutts Donald,* Farnborough Hill.

Foundation Scholarship: Amy Glider, St John's, Marlborough (13+).

Sixth Form Scholarships (external awards): Lucy Clayton, St Edmund's, Salisbury; Dion Sears, St Edmund's, Salisbury.

Appointment

Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden, KT, has been appointed Lord High Commissioner to the 1997 General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. ***Lord Goold** is unable* to take up his appointment this year.

Church of Scotland

Ordination and induction

The Rev John McNab to Unst (part-time).

The Rev Arthur D Christie to Clepington, Dundee.

The Rev David J Devenney to Aboyne with Dinnet.

The Rev Norman Smith to Longside.

Ordination

The Rev Colin Mailer as Auxiliary to Kerse, Grangemouth.

Ordination and introduction

The Rev Fiona Gardner as Assistant to Greenbank, Glasgow.

The Rev Charles Barrington as part-time Associate to Balerno.

Induction

The Rev G Fraser H Macnaughton to Killermont, Bearsden.

The Rev Stephen Pacitti to Culter with Libberton and Quothquan.

Introduction

The Rev Douglas M Main as Interim Minister at Craigentinny St Christopher's, Edinburgh.

The Rev Henry D M Dutch as Auxiliary Minister at Glasgow Cathedral.

Translation

*The Rev Alistair M Horne: Inver*gowrie to St Andrew's West, Falkirk.

Retirement

The Rev James E Hunter from Livingstone Memorial, Blantyre.

Latest wills

Admiral Sir Anthony Griffin, President, Royal Institution of Naval Architects 1981-84, Chairman British Shipbuilders 1977-80, of Bosham, West Sussex, *left estate* valued at £260,532 net.

Joan Christie Gallie, of Southport, Merseyside, left estate valued at £1,108,533 net.

She left £1,000 to the British Heart Foundation and £500 to the RSPCA. She also left all her real and personal estate to be divided between British Empire *Cancer Campaign for Research*, RSPCA, Distressed Gentlefolks Aid Association, Multiple Sclerosis Society, Scope (formerly Spastics Society) and the Merseyside Youth Association.

Eileen Mary **Burton**, of Bridge End, Warwick, left estate valued at £3,475,459 net.

She left £5,000 to the RSPCA with her residuary estate divided between the *Imperial Cancer Research Fund*, Arthritis and Rheumatic Council for Research, Leukaemia Research Fund and the Cancer Research MacMillan Fund.

Patrick Joseph **Duffy**, of Edgbaston, Birmingham, left estate valued at £1,557,265 net.

He left £1,000 to the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Birmingham and £500 to the Superior of the Oratory, Edgbaston, for Masses.

Bernard *Hawkins, of Great* Bookham, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,151,813 net.

Birthdays today

Miss Valerie Amos, managing director, Quality and Equality, 43; Mr Walter Annenberg, American *diplomat*, 89; Sir Raymond Bell, former vice-president, European Investment Bank, 81; *Lord Borrie*, QC, 66; Mr Terence Brady, playwright, novelist and actor, 58; Sir Terence Burns, *economist*, 53; Lord Butterworth, 79; Sir Michael Checkland, former Director-General, *BBC*, 61; *Miss* Lesley Collier, ballerina, 50; Mr Lionel Friend, conductor, 52; Sir Graham Hart, civil *servant*, 57; Sir Horace Heyman, former chairman, English Industrial Estates, 85; *Mr Howell* James, political secretary to the Prime Minister, 43; Sir Robert Mark, former *Commissioner*, Metropolitan Police, 80; Mr James Marshall, MP, 56; Mr David Nobbs, author, 62; Dr David Peace, glass engraver, 82; Air Commodore Helen *Renton*, former director, WRAF, 66; Mr Neil Sedaka, singer and composer, 58; *Mr Jim Slater*, former chairman, Slater Walker Securities, 68; Sir Reo Stakis, hotelier, 84; Lord Thomas of Gresford, QC, 60; Mr Peter Viggers, MP, 59.

Buckingham Palace luncheon

The Queen with *Prince Edward* yesterday held a luncheon party at Buckingham Palace. The guests were:

Ms Heather Hallett, QC (Recorder of the Crown Court), Dr Anne Wright (Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive of *Sunderland University*), Mr Trevor Brooking (vice-chairman, Sports Council for England and sports reporter), Mr Thomas Chan (member, Metropolitan Police Committee and Home Secretary's Advisory Council on Race Relations), Mr Andrew Davis (chief conductor, BBC Symphony Orchestra), Mr John Keegan (Defence Editor, *The Daily Telegraph* and military historian), Mr Alastair Macdonald (director general, Industry, *DTI*) and the Right Rev Dr Michael Nazir-Ali (Bishop of Rochester).

Luncheons

HM Government

Mr *Malcolm* Rifkind, QC, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host at a luncheon given yesterday by Her Majesty's Government at 1 Carlton *Gardens in honour* of Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Second Deputy Prime *Minister and Minister of Defence* and Aviation and Inspector General of Saudi Arabia.

HM Government

Mr Michael Portillo, Secretary of State for Defence, was the host *at a luncheon given yesterday* by Her Majesty's Government at Admiralty House in honour of *Professor* Beniamino Andreatta, Italian Minister for Defence.

Receptions

Prime Minister

The Prime Minister and Mrs Major were the hosts at a reception held last night at 10 Downing *Street to mark the centenary of the* Blue Cross.

To Archbishop Luigi Barbarito, GCVO

Archbishop Luigi Barbarito, GCVO, Apostolic Nuncio, was the guest of honour at a reception given by the Association of Papal Orders in Great Britain, the Catholic Union of Great Britain and the Friends of the Holy Father last night in Westminster *Cathedral Hall. Lord* Craigmyle, Sir Hugh Rossi and Mr Colin Edwards were the hosts.

Forthcoming marriages

Dr J.M.W. *Chipman*
and Lady Theresa Manners

The engagement is announced between *John*, son of Lawrence *Carroll* Chipman and Maria Isabel Prados, of Montreal, Canada, and *Theresa*, younger *daughter* of the Duke and Duchess of Rutland, of Belvoir Castle, Grantham, *Lincolnshire*. The marriage will take place on June 28, 1997.

Mr H.C. Arnold
and Señorita C.M. *Quesada*

The engagement is announced between Hugh Cholmondeley, eldest son of *Mr and* Mrs Hugo Arnold, of Tarvin, Chester, and Celina Maria, daughter of Señor and *Señora José* Quesada, of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Mr W.E. Church
and Miss A.E. Barke

The *engagement* is announced between Edward, elder son of Mr William Church, *of Headcorn*, Kent, and Mrs Bryony Church, of Rolvenden, Kent, and Amanda, elder *daughter* of Mr and Mrs David Barke, of Nunton, Salisbury.

Mr E.H. Ellis
and Miss K.A. Sykes

The engagement is announced between Edward, *younger son* of Mr and Mrs Howard Ellis, of Slawston, Leicestershire, and *Kate, daughter* of Mr and Mrs Roger Sykes, of Great Glen, Leicestershire.

Lieutenant D.S. *Garland*, RN,
and Miss K.J. Wheater

The engagement is announced between *Darren, elder son* of Mr and Mrs Stephen Garland, of Cleckheaton, Yorkshire, and Katharine, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Wheater, of Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.

Mr A.M. Gray
and Miss C.S.S. Hodgkinson

The engagement is announced between *Anthony, only son* of the late Dr Kenneth Gray and of Mrs Fiona Gray, of East Harlsey, North Yorkshire, and Cleo, only daughter of the late Colin and June Hodgkinson, of Worminghall, Buckinghamshire, and Dordogne, France.

Mr I.L.A. Macmillan
and Miss J. Proctor

The engagement is announced between James, eldest son of the late Mr James Macmillan and of Mrs David Meikle, of Rothesay, Isle of Bute, and Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Proctor, of West Malling, Kent.

Mr A.G. Ritchie
and Miss M.L. Twelves

The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of Mr and Mrs H.S. Ritchie, of Digswell, Hertfordshire, and Merrigan, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs A.R.F. Twelves, of Ashford in the Water, Derbyshire.

New ambassador

Mr David **Fall** has been appointed Ambassador to Vietnam from May. He succeeds Mr Peter **Williams**, who will be retiring *from the Diplomatic Service.*

Legal appointment

Mr John Edward Anthony **Samuels**, QC, to be a Circuit Judge assigned to the South Eastern Circuit.

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For I am with you to save you, says the Lord. I shall make an end of all the nations among whom *I* have dispersed you, but I shall not make an end of you. Jeremiah 30 : 11

BIRTHS

COTTON - On March 8th, to Sarah (née Johnson) and Nicholas, a daughter, *Georgia Daisy*, a *sister* for Oliver.

DURNEY - On March 8th 1997 at *The Portland Hospital*, to Christina (née Madinabeitia) and Thomas, a son, Aidan Thomas, their 1st.

GRAROVSKY - On March 4th at The Portland Hospital, to Yelena and Vitaly, a son, Nicholas *Brandon*, a brother for Thomas Alexander.

HOLDEN - On 10th March 1997, to Emily and Robert, a son and a daughter.

MURDOCH - On *March 9th*, to Alice Kay (née France) and *Andrew*, a daughter, Isabel, a sister for Eleanor.

NORTON - On March 7th, to Gail (née Hoggard) and Guy, a daughter, Elizabeth Anne.

BADLEY - On March 7th, to Harriet (née Benson) and Lawrence, a daughter, Hannah Amy.

VARLEY - To John and Alex, a son, Saxon John Navarone, born 26th February 1997 at *Sydney, Australia.*

WILLS - *On March 6th in* Singapore, to Didi (née Hribal) and Patrick, a daughter, Ella. Now at 253 Holland Road, Singapore 1027.

DEATHS

BLAND - On March 9th suddenly in Queen Elizabeth Hospital, King's Lynn, Margaret aged 82 of Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk. Funeral Service at St Nicholas Church, Wells, Tuesday 18th March 1 pm. Family flowers only; donations to RSPB.

BOMKEN - On March 8th peacefully Alfred Ewald Conrad (Con) of Northwood aged 82 years, loved and loving father of Christopher, Martin and the late Andrew and grandfather *of* James, Simon, David and Elizabeth. *Funeral Service* at Holy Trinity Church, Northwood on Tuesday March 18th at 2pm followed by private cremation at Breakspear Crematorium, Ruislip. Family flowers only. Donations please, to Macmillan Nurses *c/o* E. Spark Ltd, 104 Pinner Road, Northwood HA6 1BS, tel: (01923) 825372.

DEATHS

CLULEY - Richard Norman, *formerly of* Clarke Cluley Engineering, Kenilworth, suddenly in hospital in his 54th year. Dearly loved husband of Veronica, much loved brother of Jennifer and dear uncle to Jonathan and *Alexander. Funeral Service* at The Mid-Warwickshire *Crematorium, Oakley Wood* on Monday 17th March at 11.30 am. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations may be sent to Friends of Wrenford, c/o H.J. Dawson Funeral Directors, 22 George Street, Leamington Spa CV31 1ET.

COBBOLD - Ann (née Trevor) suddenly on 11th March at *the John Radcliffe Hospital*, Oxford, aged 72. Beloved *wife of the late* David, mother of 4, Charles (dec'd), Gillian, Richard and Christopher, grandmother of 8. Active to the last. Funeral at 2 pm on Friday 21st March at St Deny's Church, Stanford in the Vale, Oxon. No *flowers. Donations* to St Deny's Church *or* Christian Aid. To God be the Glory!

COOK - R.W.M. (Dick) died peacefully at Harefield Hospital on Saturday 8th March. Sadly missed by Pat, Carol and Janet. Cremation 11.15 am Monday 17th March, West Herts Crematorium, Garston. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Cancer Research Campaign. Enquiries to Funeral Directors (01923) 852899.

CRANE - Suddenly on 11th March Rev. Paul Robert S.J. Editor of Christian Order and Founder Director of Claver House, London SW1. Requiem *Mass at the Sacred* Heart Church, Edge Hill, *Wimbledon, SW19, on* Tuesday 18th March at 10am. No flowers but donations if desired to Jesuit Missions, 11 Edge Hill, Wimbledon, London SW19 4LR.

DAVISON - On March 11th, mercifully following a long illness Netta Frances aged 78 years of Sedbury Park Nursing Home, Sedbury, Chepstow. Funeral Service Wednesday March 19th, 2.30pm at the Forest of Dean *Crematorium. No flowers* by request, donations if so *desired for Parkinsons* Disease Society may be sent to Philip Blatchly & Son, 5 Station Road, Chepstow, Monmouthshire. Tel: (01291) 624939.

HANFORD - Joan peacefully at home aged 83, after a long illness borne with dignity and courage. Funeral Service at Ogbourne St George Church, near Marlborough, at 2 pm Saturday 15th March. She loved *flowers* but would have welcomed donations to the Macmillan Nurses.

JACKINSON - Harry Wilson quite suddenly on March 9th in Woodchurch, Kent. Service and cremation at Charing Crematorium on Friday 14th March at 1.20pm. *Donations to* R.N.L.I.

HARE - William Francis, Earl of Listowel, on Wednesday, 12th March, Peacefully at home. Private funeral. No memorial service, as wished. Family flowers only. Any donations to The Children's Society, Edward Rudolf House, Margery Street, London, WC1X 0JL.

JOHNSON - *Née* Bluck (ex Rowntree) Ellen Mary *Monica on March 10th 1997* aged 90 years of Eversley, Belmont Road, Wrexham. Beloved wife of the late Thomas Parry Johnson, mother of Dr. Brian Johnson and Mrs Elizabeth Hoffman. Funeral Service at St Giles' Parish Church, Wrexham, Wednesday March 19th at 12 noon. We would be pleased to hear from any descendants of Stanley and Ernest Rowntree or Dorothy Jolly.

MARTIN - On 9th *March* at Steep House Nursing Home, Gordon Sunman Martin D.S.C., formerly of Ropley, aged 77 years, much loved husband *of the late* Norah Constance, father of Jamie and Tom, grandfather of five. Private cremation followed by a Service of Thanksgiving and Interment at St Peter's Church, Ropley, on Tuesday 18th March at 3 pm. Donations to the Friends of the *Royal Hampshire* County Hospital Winchester c/o Kemp & Stevens, 93 High Street, Alton, Hants. GU34 1LG.

NORRIS - On March 10th, Alison Dorothea aged 51, peacefully at home after living courageously with cancer. Daughter of Kay and the late Alan Norris, mother of Joshua and *Rachel* Phillips, sister of Diana and *David, grandmother of* Poppy, companion of Janet. Beloved and missed by all. No flowers by request. Donations to St Gemma's Hospice, Moortown, Leeds LS17 6QD or Christian Aid, PO Box 100, London SE1 7RT.

PRITCHARD - Enid L. on 8th March at Hampstead, aged 91. Funeral at Emmanuel Church, Lyncroft Gardens, NW6 at 12.30 pm Thursday 20th March. No flowers please. Donations to CMS c/o Levertons, 181 Haverstock Hill, NW3 4QS.

RICKARD - Ronald and Margaret suddenly but peacefully at home on 9th March. Happily married for 38 years and beloved parents of John, Jeremy and James. No flowers please but donations if wished to a charity of donor's choice. All enquiries to A.E. Bennett & Sons Funeral Directors, *(01789) 267035.*

BOATH - On March 1st 1997 suddenly in Florida, Doctor Stuart aged 67 years. Beloved husband of Jo, father of Sarah, Sian and David and grandfather of Amy and Sophie. The Funeral Service will take place on Saturday March 15th at St Matthew's Church, *Otterbourne*, Hampshire at 11.30am. Flowers or donations, if desired, for Leukaemia Research may be sent c/o Jno. Steel & Son, 163 Bursley Road, Chandlers Ford, Hants. SO53 1JH.

SHAW - Cynthia peacefully at home on March 10th. Much loved wife of Geoffrey and greatly loved mother, granny and sister. Private family cremation. No flowers. Donations if wished to Katharine House Hospice, Adderbury OX17 3NL. Service of Thanksgiving at St Andrew's, Kingham, on *Friday March 21st* at 3 pm.

SPRING - Dr. Frank Stuart, *F.R.S., much loved husband* of Mary and father of John and *Vivien, very peacefully* on Saturday 1st March, aged 89. Funeral at Golders Green Crematorium, NW11, at 11.45 am on Monday, 17th March. Enquiries to Leverton, (0171) 387-6075.

WARN - On March 10th whilst in the loving care of the *staff at Peppermill Court,* York, Major Eric William Richard, President of Devon Rugby Union Football, English Rugby Union Committee Member 1968-1977, (formerly of *Crownhill, Plymouth*). Much loved father of Peter and *Elizabeth and a dear father*-in-law of Pamela and Peter, also a *loving grandpa* of Ben, Kate, Matthew, Vanessa, Laura and Emily. Funeral Service and committal at St Olave's Church, Marygate, York, on *Monday* March 17th at 11.30 am. Family flowers *only please. Donations in* lieu if so desired may be left *on a plate in church or sent* to Peppermill Court, Huntington Road, York.

WILLIAMSON - John Heaton "Willie" March 10th after a short illness. Loved by many. Funeral at St Giles Church, Ashtead Thursday March 20th 3 pm followed by cremation. No flowers, donations if wished to Cancer Research c/o Hawkins & Sons (01372) 372435.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

ROBERTS - Sir Bryan. A Thanksgiving Service will take place at 11.30 am on Friday 11th April in the Crypt Chapel of St Paul's *Cathedral.*

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: Eleanor Mary Frances Reeve, deceased
Scheme
Reference: PC-3060461/44860-CD(Ldn)

The Charity Commissioners *have made a Scheme for this* charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at Vaughan & Davies, *Solicitors*, 32 Duke Street, Kington, Herefordshire, HR5 3BW (ref: CMT/JDW/Reeve) or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St. Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX quoting the reference above.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Sixty-Seventh ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the GOVERNORS of King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers (Sister Agnes Founder) will be held in Agnes Keyser House, Beaumont Street, London W1N 1BD at 11.00am on Thursday 1 May 1997 - by Order Brigadier C J M Harrison OBE, Chief Executive.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: The National Sea Training Trust
Scheme including alteration of the objects of the Charity
Reference: CS-16403-CD(Ldn)

The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at Carthusian Court 12 Carthusian Street London EC1M 6EB or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX quoting the above reference. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

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OBITUARIES

THE EARL OF LISTOWEL

The 5th Earl of Listowel, PC, GCMG, politician and former Governor-General of Ghana, died yesterday aged 90. He was born on September 28, 1906.

One of the last figures to survive from the postwar Attlee Government, "Billy" Listowel went on to have a distinguished career as the first Governor-General of Ghana in the turbulent days of Kwame Nkrumah. It was a delicate assignment but it was carried off with grace and distinction by a man whose political career had largely been concerned with the Empire and the Commonwealth. Yet Listowel's outlook had always been a left-wing one — he had played a full and active part in the Fabian Commonwealth Bureau — and he had no difficulty at all in acclimatising to the "wind of change" era in Africa starting, as it did, with independence for Ghana.

William Francis Hare (as he was until he succeeded his father, the 4th Earl, in 1931) paid a substantial price for his convictions. As an undergraduate he had been removed from Balliol College, Oxford — to which he had gone from Eton — by his father on the ground that he had fallen under left-wing influences. He was then sent to Magdalene College, Cambridge, but his political attitudes did not change. He immediately joined both the Cambridge University Labour Club and the Cambridge Union, where he frequently spoke in favour of socialist causes (on one occasion appearing on the Cambridge Union order paper in support of the miners' leader, A. J. Cook).

At this stage of his career he refused to use his courtesy title of Viscount Ennismore and it was as plain "Mr Hare" that he went to work at Toynbee Hall (as Clement Attlee had done before him). There, living on £3 a week, he was very active in setting up an organisation called "Neighbours Ltd", the declared objective of which was to distribute the funds of the wealthy among the poor.

His way of life, though, necessarily changed when at the age of 25 he succeeded his father in both the Irish earldom of Listowel and the UK barony of Hare, under which he sat in the House of Lords. But, although he inherited his father's titles, he by no means came into all his fortune, a substantial part of which went to his more orthodox brothers — John Hare, later as Lord Blakenham chairman of the Conservative Party, and Alan Hare, an officer of MI6 and subsequently chairman of the *Financial Times*. His automatic elevation to the Lords — there was no right of renunciation in those days — meant also the end of Listowel's hopes to sit in the Commons.

He proved, however, a very conscientious Labour peer, at one time both before and during the first Attlee Government, serving as his party's deputy leader in the House of Lords. Initially, because there were so few Labour peers available, there was no lack of opportunity for him to display his abilities. It was not long before he was recognised as a knowledgeable and earnest contributor to debates on pretty well every subject, and in 1934 he introduced a measure of his own, known as the Summary Jurisdiction (Domestic Procedure) Bill, which was designed to enhance any chances of conciliation between married couples considering separation and divorce, and to provide opportunities for them to discuss their relationship with the help of the bench.

From the start he saw in Nazism and Fascism the chief enemies to his hopes of social reform. He became an active member of a large number of *ad hoc* bodies which aimed to prevent the spread of totalitarian ideas: these included the World Alliance for Combating Anti-Semitism, the Relief Committee for the Victims of Fascism and the National Joint Committee for Spanish Relief, of which he was vice-chairman. In 1934 he visited Berlin to try to help some of the early inmates of the concentration camps and, later in the same year, he went with Ellen Wilkinson (later to lead the Jarrow Hunger March) to investigate the revolt in the Asturias. Although armed with a letter of recommendation from the Spanish Premier, they were unable to make any proper inquiries and were expelled by the police.

When Japan launched her attack on China, he became chairman of the Friends of the Chinese People and president of the China Campaign Committee. In 1938 he visited Spain again on behalf of the relief organisations and in particular he was associated with the work of providing homes for refugee Basque children.

With the outbreak of the Second World War, having been rejected for overseas service on medical grounds, he joined the RAMC as a private. In 1941 he was commisioned as a second lieutenant in the Intelligence Corps but, when turned down once again for overseas service, he decided to devote all his energies to politics. He had been attending the House whenever his military duties allowed, and in 1942 was promoted from assistant whip to Chief Labour Whip in the Lords.

Being an old sympathiser with the Congress movement, he had always made a special study of Indian questions, and this knowledge led to his appointment to the Coalition Government in 1944 as Under-Secretary to the India Office. His appointment was popular in India as it was known that he believed that power should be transferred into Indian hands as rapidly as possible, and that when independence was granted its shadow should not be confused with its substance.

He also acted as deputy leader of the House of Lords which meant dealing authoritatively with every aspect of governmental policy and, after Labour's victory in 1945, he continued under Lord Addison to handle general questions in addition to becoming Postmaster-General. This now defunct position was often looked upon as a mere stepping-stone to higher things but Listowel took it on as a job deserving all of his best efforts.

His first main task was the restoration of prewar postal deliveries, but from early on he began to introduce a number of improvements, which included the development of inland night air-mails to link up with the railway system. With nationalisation, the services of Cable and Wireless for the first time came under the wing of his department, and in addition he was faced with a quite unprecedented demand for the installation of new telephones.

Lord Listowel, Governor-General of Ghana, left, and the country's leader Dr Nkrumah at a march past in 1958

He was sworn of the Privy Council in 1946. He also represented East Lewisham on the LCC from 1937 to 1946 and was vice-chairman of its parliamentary committee. Between 1947, when he left the Post Office, and 1950 he held successively the posts of Secretary of State for India (in the transition period to independence in August 1947), for Burma (until January 1948) and Minister of State for Colonial Affairs (until the general election of February 1950). It was, therefore, something of a comedown when, after the narrow Labour victory of that year, he found himself appointed merely Joint Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries — a position which he held until the fall of the Attlee Government in October 1951.

In many ways, however, the most fruitful part of his career was still to come. Appointed to the governor-generalship of Ghana by the Macmillan Government in 1957 at the direct request of the newly independent country's first Prime Minister Kwame Nkrumah, Listowel soon proved an instant success. The years of Nkrumah's excesses were still in the future and there was opportunity at that time at least for a Governor-General to excercise a restraining influence on the undoubtedly magnetic political leader who rejoiced in the title of "the Redeemer". When Listowel left Ghana in 1960, it was to universal regret — he had endeared himself to the populace by having his daughter born in Ghana that year given the African name of Akua.

Listowel was three times married. He married first, in 1933, Judith de Marffy-Mantuano, the daughter of a minister in the Hungarian Government and herself a well-known activist over Eastern Europe. This marriage was dissolved in 1945. In 1958 he married the former blues singer Stephanie Wise but this marriage was also dissolved in 1963. He married for a third time in 1963 a former hairdresser Pamela Read. He is survived by a daughter of his first marriage, a daughter of his second marriage and by two sons and a daughter of his third. The elder son of his third marriage now becomes the 6th Earl of Listowel with the right to sit in the House of Lords as the 4th Baron Hare.

ARLETTE TEDDER

Arlette Tedder, wartime WAAF officer, died on March 3 aged 77. She was born on November 4, 1919.

ARLETTE HARRIS — "Harry", as she was affectionately known throughout the Royal Air Force during the war — is remembered by Air Marshal Sir Ivor Broom as "one of the last of that vanishing breed of British women who put their country before everything else in their lives". For Sir Arthur Harris she was "the personification of the spirit of British women at war". She also won the enduring affection of Earl Mountbatten of Burma.

She was born Edith Arlette Harris in Birmingham and studied the piano at the Royal College of Music before taking a secretarial course at Pitman's College and began work as a shorthand typist for the City of Birmingham Corporation. But civilian work could never satisfy her and in 1941 she was commissioned in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force.

In 1943 she became adjutant at the WAAF officer cadet training unit at Windermere. There her attractive personality and lively sense of fun soon earned her the title of "pin-up girl of Bomber Command". Lord Louis Mountbatten, then Supreme Allied Commander South-East Asia, also fell under her spell when she joined his personal staff in Ceylon. He always referred to her as "the adorable Arlette".

In November 1945, after the Japanese surrender, Mountbatten moved his HQ to Singapore. There, Arlette found herself seated on his right at full dress dinners at Government House. But her escort to "super parties" on board the cruisers *Birmingham* and *Belfast* and the destroyer *Charity* was a naval officer, Alan Tedder, whom she married in Bulawayo in 1948, after she had been demobbed. They returned to live in Singapore, where their son Nigel was born.

The Tedders came back to Britain in 1956. They were divorced in 1973, a decision she bitterly regretted. Her second marriage, in 1973, to Laurence Harlow, was shortlived. She went back to nurse her first husband through his final illness, and reverted to the name Tedder by deed poll.

Her home in Reading, where she worked as secretary to the managing director of Tate and Lyle, was a treasure-house of RAF and WAAF memorabilia. Throughout her later civilian life, she remained a sort of icon among wartime aviators, attending almost every RAF reunion.

In 1991 she appeared with Sir John and Lady Mills and Anne Shelton in the video film *Women at War*, and in May 1995 she was a guest of the Armed Forces Minister, Nicholas Soames, at the service at St Paul's Cathedral to mark the anniversary of VE-Day.

Although breast cancer was diagnosed in 1983, she continued working for the next ten years until she was 74. Her philosophy was always summed up in four words, "get on with it", and when her old friend Air Marshal Sir Ivor Broom visited her in hospital two weeks before her death, she flourished tickets for a forthcoming service for the Mosquito Aircrew Association at the RAF church of St Clement Danes in the Strand.

She is survived by her son.

SIR THOMAS LODGE

Sir Thomas Lodge, consultant radiologist, United Sheffield Hospitals, 1946-74, died on February 16 aged 87. He was born on November 25, 1909.

DURING his many years in Sheffield, during which he was also clinical lecturer at Sheffield University from 1960 to 1974, Tommy Lodge published many articles and books on radiodiagnosis, particularly in children. He was also noted for his work on the respiratory and skeletal systems.

Perhaps his most valuable original research was his thesis *The Radiological Anatomy of the Blood Vessels of the Human Lung*, which was awarded the Twining Medal in 1946. It provided the basis of many of our current concepts of heart and lung disease. From his twin bases at the United Sheffield Hospitals and the university he was a stalwart leader of national and international medical diagnostic radiology.

Born and educated in Sheffield, he qualified as a doctor there in 1934 and after postgraduate training in Sheffield and Manchester (radiotherapy), was appointed consultant radiologist to the United Sheffield Hospitals and clinical lecturer to the University of Sheffield. He was knighted on his retirement in 1974.

As a clinical radiologist, Lodge had a sharp diagnostic eye, a wonderful memory and a remarkable facility for rapid reporting of radiological examinations.

He played a leading role at the Faculty of Radiologists which became the Royal College of Radiologists in 1975, serving as its president, 1963-66, and honorary editor of its journal *Clinical Radiology*, 1954-59. He became its Gold Medallist in 1986. He was consultant adviser to the Department of Health and Social Security, 1965-74.

His international reputation earned him fellowships and honours not only in this country but from radiological societies and institutions all over the world.

His leadership secured for Sheffield its position as a major contributor to British and international radiology.

When he was working as a young doctor in general practice in Sheffield, among his patients were leading members of the notoriously violent Sheffield gangs of that time, and Lodge would entertain his colleagues with colourful stories about that turbulent period in the city's history. He was a keen sportsman, excelling in swimming and water polo and cricket. He also had a great reputation as an after-dinner speaker.

In retirement he and his wife, Aileen, lived in Brighton. She died in 1990 after 50 years of very happy marriage. He leaves a son and daughter.

TERRY NATION

Terry Nation with one of his extraterrestrial creations

Terry Nation, television writer, died on March 9 aged 66. He was born in August 8, 1930.

TERRY NATION provided British children with a new nightmare when he invented the Daleks, those diabolical foes of Dr Who, in 1963. The Daleks made him a rich man, one of the highest-paid freelance television scriptwriters of his generation. Yet he had first turned down the suggestion of writing for a children's television series, and had only dashed off the idea to please his agent.

The BBC liked his proposal, and introduced the Daleks during the fifth *Dr Who* episode, entitled *The Dead Planet*, at the end of 1963. Made of nobbly metal and about three feet high, the creatures resembled upturned beakers with domed tops. A dull metal flange surrounded their "heads", and three different kinds of rod probed the air like a beetle's antennae. There was an endearingly home-made quality to the early Daleks, whose death-ray guns were constructed, fairly obviously, from rubber sink plungers. "We will exterminate," delivered in strangulated falsetto, was their rallying cry.

Like Frankenstein, Nation never quite escaped the long shadow of his monster. Whatever distinguished adult work he later put his mind to, he was known around BBC corridors ever afterwards as "the Dalek Man". "I find that against my will I am taken over by the Daleks," he once lamented.

His love for science fiction had blossomed as an only child, growing up in South Wales. After school at Cardiff, Nation briefly joined his father in the family furniture-making business. When that closed he tried his luck as a stand-up comedian. After several auditions, endured by the audience in painful silence, a forthright agent told him that, while his material was good, his delivery was appalling.

Spike Milligan took pity on the gaunt young man he found haunting the BBC studios, and gave him a cheque for £10 to write a script for *The Goon Show*. He liked the result, and Nation all but moved in to Milligan's office over a greengrocer's shop in Shepherds Bush. He also wrote comedy for Frankie Howerd, Harry Worth and Peter Sellers, and episodes for *The Saint*.

He was working with Tony Hancock in Nottingham when his London agent rang to ask if he wanted to write for a new BBC children's series, *Dr Who*. "A children's series. Who do they think I am?" was his initial reaction. But when he returned to London without a job he decided to give it a try, and dreamt up a verbal description of a Dalek, which he named after the spine of an encyclopaedia on his bookshelf, DAL-EK.

According to the storyline of the feature film, *Dr Who and the Daleks* (1965), the Daleks were not actually robots, as they were popularly presumed to be, but the last members of a doomed race which had adapted to the corrosive atmosphere of their planet, Scaro, by wearing protective metal armour. The live part of them was a slimy green, brain-sized blob.

After a rapturous reception from the series' youthful audience, the Daleks became a fixture on *Dr Who*, and established Nation at the BBC. Their success cost him surprisingly little effort. Though he could be a painstaking writer on more serious projects, he found he was able to write a Dalek television script in about eight hours.

The Daleks made way for deadlier foes during the 1970s. Nation, not pleased by the sadistic direction the series appeared to be taking, branched out on his own again. His first new series was *The Survivors* (1975) which followed a group of plague survivors — the last men and women left on earth after a new disease has wiped out 98 per cent of mankind. The question had been intriguing Nation for several years. How could he cope without clean water, lightbulbs, pencils? To answer that, he made his family self-supporting for nine months. He bought a goat and some chickens and he and his wife Kate — formerly a pianist — grew all the family's food.

The next series, *Blake's Seven*, was set in outer space and did particularly well — opening as it did only days after *Star Wars* had its first night in Britain in 1977.

Nation uprooted his family to Los Angeles in 1980. Working in Hollywood had been a dream for years. But the reality of an increasingly grey-suited film-making environment on the West Coast did not suit Nation's style and there were no new television series. There was, however, always some new project for Fox or MGM to keep him busy, and American aficionados of *Dr Who*, such as Steven Spielberg, made "the Dalek Man" welcome.

Terry Nation died in Los Angeles after several years of bad health, and is survived by his wife and by a son and a daughter.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Robert Gage, Vicar, South Mymms and Ridge (St Albans): to be Canon Residentiary and Precentor of Wakefield Cathedral.

The Rev Stephen Gott, Assistant Curate, Mount Pellon: to be Vicar, St Thomas, Greetland and West Vale (Wakefield).

The Rev Richard Hall, Rector, Saltford w Corston and Newton St Loe: to be also Rural Dean of Chew Magna (Bath & Wells).

The Rev Peter Hill, Priest-in-charge, Calverton: to be also Rural Dean of Southwell.

The Rev David Kennedy, Chaplain of Humberside University (York): to be Priest-in-charge, St Matthew, Barrow in Furness, and part-time Chaplain, Furness College (Carlisle).

The Rev Robert King, Assistant Curate, Holy Trinity, Hereford: to be Priest-in-charge, Holy Trinity, Hereford.

The Rev Ruth Legg, Curate, Christ Church, Nailsea: to be Vicar, Pill w Easton in Gordano and Portbury (Bath & Wells).

The Rev Phillip McFadyen, Vicar, Ranworth w Woodbastwick and Diocesan Clergy Training Officer (Norwich): to be also an Honorary Canon of Norwich Cathedral.

The Rev Michael McNamara, Team Vicar, Team Ministry of St Paul w Emmanuel, Bolton (Manchester): to be Assistant Curate, Galleywood, St Michael and All Angels' (Chelmsford).

The Rev Simon Marshall, Curate, St John the Baptist, Great Clacton: to be Vicar, All Saints', Chigwell Row, Chigwell Team Ministry (Chelmsford).

The Rev David Moore, Assistant Curate, St Helen, St Helens (Liverpool): to be Vicar, St Stephen, Canonbury Road (London).

The Rev Stuart Nairn, Vicar, Narborough w Narford, Rector, Pentney w West Bilney and Rural Dean of Lynn: to be also Priest-in-charge, Castle Acre, Newton-by-Castle Acre, Southacre and West Acre (Norwich).

The Rev Steven Palmer, Assistant Curate, St Giles, Sheldon: to be Priest-in-charge, St Matthew, Nechells (Birmingham).

The Rev John Pescod, Vicar, St John and St Mary, Frome: to be also Rural Dean of Frome (Bath & Wells).

The Rev Barry Priory, Rector, Porlock (and Porlock Weir) w Stoke Pero: to be also Rural Dean of Exmoor (Bath & Wells).

The Rev Mark Pudge, Assistant Curate, St Andrew's, Wickford and Runwell Team Ministry: to be Team Vicar, Wickford and Runwell Team Ministry (Chelmsford).

The Rev Allan Pye, Vicar, Hayton w Cumwhitton and Rural Dean of Brampton (Carlisle): to be also an Honorary Canon of Carlisle Cathedral.

The Rev Brian Ralph, Assistant Curate, St John on Bethnal Green Team Ministry: to be Team Vicar, St John on Bethnal Green Team Ministry (London).

The Rev Alan Ripley, Rector, South Petherton w The Seavingtons: to be also a Prebendary of Wells Cathedral.

The Rev John Ruffle, Team Rector, Yatton Moor Team Ministry: to be also a Prebendary of Wells Cathedral.

The Rev David Ryan, Curate, Horsforth: to be Curate Bedale and Priest-in-charge, Thornton Watlass (Ripon).

The Rev William Sayer, Rector, Holkham w Egmere and Quarles; Warham All Saints w Warham St Mary Magdalene, Wells-next-the-Sea, Wighton All Saints', and Chaplain to Wells Cottage Hospital (Norwich): to be also an Hon Canon of Norwich Cathedral

Prebendary John Simons, Rector, Holy Trinity, Nailsea: to be Senior Assistant Priest, Holy Trinity, Nailsea and Director of Cross Winds (Bath & Wells).

Resignations and retirements

The Rev Eric Ford, Chaplain, Holy Trinity, Las Palmas, Canary Islands (Europe): to retire August 31.

The Rev Bill Pegg, Chaplain, St George, Malaga w Torremolinos, Spain (Europe): to retire September 16.

ON THIS DAY

March 13, 1915

The article has no mention of motorcycle makes but it does conjure up the days when Britain dominated the market with such names as BSA, Norton, Douglas, Velocette, Enfield and AJS

THREE TYPES OF MOTOR-CYCLE

(From a correspondent.)

The popularity of the motor-cycle was foreseen several years ago by acute observers. Until quite recently, however, it was regarded as a young man's toy. So it was in the days when the motor-cycle implied noise, uncertainty, and danger both to the rider and to those he met on the road. The history of its development is not one of smooth and steady progress. At times the problems before the designer appeared insurmountable. There were in the early days, no trustworthy data for the designer to work upon. While one school argued that the motor-cycle should be a miniature motor-car, others maintained it would be a superior pedal-bicycle. Both were wrong. While being of the class of vehicles which have internal-combustion engines, the motor-cycle has little in common with the car or with the bicycle. The problems of its design and manufacture are peculiar to itself. Recognizing this, and the hopelessness of any attempt to incorporate a miniature edition of some type of car-engine and transmission into a strengthened bicycle-frame, designers reconsidered the problem. The engine received first consideration. The single-cylinder, four-stroke, air-cooled engine was at length developed into a power-unit of unquestioned "reliability." A demand for more power led to the 3½ h.p. engine, similar in type but of 499 c.c. capacity. This was the first satisfactory motor-cycle engine. For several years it held the field against all rivals. In fact, at one time engine-design was in danger of becoming stagnant, so reluctant was the manufacturer to depart from the proven single-cylinder unit. Having settled the question of power, the designer had next to concentrate on the problems of transmission, springing, steering and control. Roughly, motor-cycles may be divided into three main classes. First, there is the two-stroke light-weight, primarily intended for riding alone. In price these machines vary from £22 to £45. The fuel consumption is between 80 and 100 miles per gallon. The speed range is from four to 40 miles per hour. Secondly comes the single-cylinder, 3 to 5 h.p., four-stroke, air-cooled unit. These can be used with or without a passenger. Some type of speed-gear is desirable in the latter case. In this class must be included several satisfactory makes of machine fitted with twin-cylinder engines of medium power. These motor-cycles vary in price from £35 to £65. An average fuel consumption is 55 to 65 miles per gallon. With a passenger the speed obtainable with a well-tuned engine is about 40 miles per hour. Lastly comes the twin, or four-cylindered, machine, intended solely for use with a passenger. This is the most comfortable form of motor-cycling. With some of the heavy types, having engines of up to 8 h.p., a speed of 50 miles per hour can be obtained. The fuel consumption is heavier, and may be as low as 35 miles to the gallon; £100 is an ordinary price for such an outfit, complete with side-car. This sum includes electric lighting and engine-starting set, driven from the engine, and a very completely-equipped side-car, which affords ample protection to the passenger even in the worst of weathers.

THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Anorexic girl held at clinic

■ An anorexic teenager at risk of starving herself to death is to be detained against her will — with force if necessary — under a High Court order requiring her to undergo feeding treatment.

In what is thought to be the first such order forcibly restricting a child's liberty for medical reasons, Mr Justice Wall agreed that the 16-year-old girl could be detained at a clinic and that she could be brought back if she ran away .... **Page 1**

Thatcher denies Portillo campaign

■ Baroness Thatcher quashed talk of a Tory leadership battle by issuing a denial of claims that she was helping a campaign launched by supporters of Michael Portillo. She protested to the Press Complaints Commission over a report suggesting that her staff had circulated a dossier helping the Defence Secretary .... **Page 1**

Car girls killed

Four grammar school sixth-form girls died when their car crashed and burst into flames on a narrow country lane near Harrogate, Yorkshire .... **Page 1**

Hogg survives

Douglas Hogg survived the latest attack on the Government's handling of food safety, insisting repeatedly in a Commons statement that hygiene standards in abattoirs were going up ...**Page 2**

Tabletalk

A television programme that purports to show that bigotry is alive and well in Tory middle class Britain will be screened on Channel 4 .... **Page 3**

Channel 5 alert

Channel 5 admitted that it had given 18,000 television viewers "serious cause for complaint" in its race to retune their video equipment before it goes on air on March 30 .... **Page 4**

Robinson's new job

Mary Robinson announced that she will not be seeking a second term as President of Ireland. She is expected to seek the vacant position of UN Commissioner for Human Rights .... **Page 5**

Dunblane memories

On the anniversary of the Dunblane massacre the primary school will open to allow friends and families of the bereaved to pay their respects .... **Page 6**

Cloning a herd

Australian scientists have produced nearly 500 identical cattle embryos in the first cloning "production line" .... **Page 8**

Lawrence award

The widow of the murdered headmaster Philip Lawrence launched an award scheme. Frances Lawrence called for more action to halt violent crime among disaffected youth .... **Page 9**

Albanian queues

At nine in the morning, the people of Elbasan begin to queue: 200 *outside the offices of the collapsed pyramid* operator, Giferi, and 200 outside the local military arsenal at Mjeks .... **Page 11**

Township shootings

Six people were killed in Johannesburg townships and shots were fired in the city centre as Zulus marched to commemorate the third anniversary of the Shell House massacre .... **Page 12**

US Army race row

The US Army faced a racial blow after five female soldiers claimed they were bullied into making unfounded rape charges against black instructors .... **Page 13**

Kohl closes down

Windows stayed firmly shut in Helmut Kohl's offices and the air-conditioning was switched on to block out the chanting of miners baying for the heads of the Government .... **Page 14**

The parking meters answer back

■ A parking meter that telephones wardens to alert them when a car goes into penalty time has been developed by engineers. When the warning is activated, the warden can see the car on an electronic map. Motorists hoping to take revenge should approach with caution. The meter can send out a distress call to the local police station .... **Page 1**

SERGIO PEREZ / Reuters

King Hussein of Jordan and Queen Noor are greeted by Queen Sofia (right) as they arrive in Madrid for a two-day private visit. Page 13

BUSINESS

Iceland: The beleaguered food retailing group, plans to buy back a third of its shares, having abandoned hopes of taking itself private .... **Page 23**

SBC Warburg: The investment bank has become the latest City institution to fall foul of financial regulators as the Securities and Futures Authority confirmed it was investigating £300 million of share trades .... **Page 23**

Barclays has sold for £249 million parts of Imry, the property company, taken onto the bank's books in 1992 after property prices collapsed in Britain .... **Page 23**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 21.8 to 4422.5. Sterling fell to 96.8: falling from $1.6055 to $1.5930 and DM2.7379 to DM2.7105.... **Page 26**

SPORT

Rugby union: Rob Andrew, who has not played an international for nearly two years, was called into the England squad as cover for the stand-off half position....... **Page 44**

Racing: Record crowds have attended this year's Cheltenham Festival and 60,000 are expected for *the most open running of the Tote* Gold Cup since 1979 .... **Page 44**

Cricket: The expected appointment of David Graveney as chairman of England selectors could lead to fundamental changes in the way the national team is chosen..... **Page 41**

Football: A deal has been struck between Brighton and Hove Albion's co-owners and the prospective buyers of the troubled club after talks at the Centre of Dispute Resolution .... **Page 44**

ARTS

Patient virtues: Cinema releases are dominated by Anthony Minghella's *The English Patient*. Does it merit its 12 Oscar nominations? Geoff Brown reports .... **Page 31**

Juicy peach: New on video this week is *James and the Giant Peach*, the excellent animated version of Roald Dahl's book, with its message of love .... **Page 32**

Prickly poet: Jason Cowley meets Robin Robertson, poet, publisher, champion of experimental writing and godfather of the radical Celtic literary fringe .... **Page 33**

Sophisticated lady: Maria Friedman shines in the National Theatre's fine revival of *Lady in the Dark*, the Hart/Weill/Gershwin musical that was a Forties Broadway hit .... **Page 33**

FEATURES

Early start: Sixty girls were assessed for the 32 places on offer at a leading independent school. Nothing very unusual in that — except that the girls were aged only *three* .... **Page 15**

Too shy: Are Britons still so easily *embarrassed when shopping for personal items? Dr Thomas Stuttaford on why so many un*wanted toothbrushes are littering bathroom shelves .... **Page 16**

Health menu: Britain's most unusual screening centre dispenses medical advice along with recipes for a healthy diet .... **Page 16**

Criminal chic: Georgina Wainwright was chic — "the way she walked and dressed; she always looked immaculate. She was beautiful." Wainwright robbed 12 banks before she died at 33 .... **Page 17**

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ POP

David Sinclair on *Nine Lives*, the new album by vintage rockers Aerosmith (left)

■ INTERVIEW

Valerie Grove meets Professor Roy Foster, the author of a new biography of W.B. Yeats

BOOKS

Books: A fire in his head: Peter Ackroyd on the poetry and mysticism of W. B. Yeats; Orlando Figes traces the legacy of the Russian Empire .... **Pages 34, 35**

TRAVEL

Price cuts: War on the high seas as Thomson cuts the cost of cruising to its lowest level and ferry rivals slash booking prices .... **Page 37**

Fading dream: Why Taffy Buffton will have to leave his hideaway: the consequences of development in a tropical paradise .... **Page 37**

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Living off nature with Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall: *A Cook on the Wild Side* (Channel 4, 8.30pm). **Review:** Lynne Truss on the joys of being Jewish.... **Page 43**

OPINION

A Hogg's breakfast

The Meat Hygiene Service was rightly created to implement a national approach to the quality of abbatoirs. If it is to succeed then it must be detached from a failed ministry and placed under a new independent body .... **Page 19**

Jolly good fellows

The presence of male fellows at St Hilda's need not threaten the cause of women's education .... **Page [illegible]**

Changing names

Changing a country's name is rarely popular. History is erased, geography confused .... **Page 19**

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

There is nothing rational about food policy. The Minister is the madame of a brothel of special interests, with branches all over Europe. Almost certainly, the policy is wrong: wrong in Europe, wrong in the regulations, wrong in the ministry, wrong in the structure of enforcement, wrong in the *animal-killing business* .... **Page [illegible]**

WILLIAM WALDEGRAVE

The windall tax is a proposed one-off levy with the remarkable power of paying for things which will go on costing money every year. When I pointed this out to one Labour friend, he chuckled: "Didn't you know, windfalls come every year?" That, I expect, is the truth: new taxes every year .... **Page 18**

JOHN BRYANT

If British sport is going to get a few lessons in how to take on the world it had better get back to school. This week there are signs that it might be doing just that .... **Page 42**

OBITUARIES

The Earl of Listowel, politician; **Terry Nation**, TV writer and Daleks creator .... **Page 21**

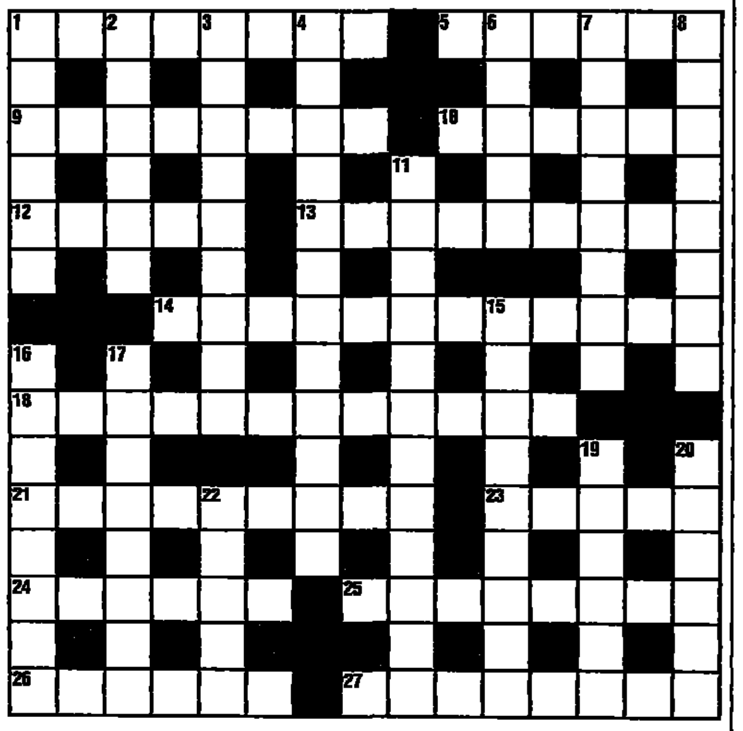
LETTERS

Archbishop's speech; Lord Weatherill on the Police Bill; Albania; Assisted Places Scheme..... **Page 19**

LOTTERY NUMBERS

3, 4, 5, 16, 22, 25. Bonus: 12. The estimated jackpot is £3,800,000.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,426



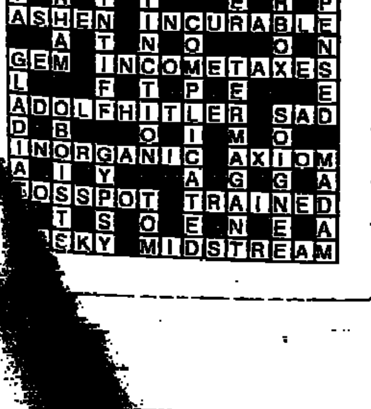
ACROSS

1 No more locks lower down than this (8).
5 Mix hard sweet that needs endlessly turning over (6).
9 Transformed – recoated in paint (8).
10 Where you see skiers taking second runs (6).
12 Monarch can back one of the gunpowder makers (5).
13 Guerrilla with artillery – gun the state rejected (9).
14 One having unexpectedly good heart – sounds like trump card (5,7).
18 Cut from yesterday's joint? (4-8).
21 Beautiful girl deprived of leading part in producing *Sound of Music* (9).
23 A fool who shows his hand at the start? (5).
24 Tin ore processed in distant region (6).
25 Suspect little drops of water cause corrosion (8).
26 Retreat after turf becomes wet (6).
27 Breaking down in an urban area (Los Angeles) coming back (8).

DOWN

1 Making a secret of punishment (6).
2 Audible, visible prompt (6).
3 Liable to turn us over or clean us out (9).
4 Love action? Certainly not! (7,5).
6 Concerning convict's place of incarceration (5).
7 Top pork producer down to nothing with Christmas over (8).
8 Malicious gossip's brought up during social gathering for bridge (8).
11 Forecast about the French cup of tea (12).
15 According to story, a lot dance in formation (9).
16 Cutters coming from one ship among many out east (8).
17 Do play – I'm out for time between games (8).
19 Take very short time in relation to sum (6).
20 Holy man accepting most of my criticism (6).
22 Research, in general, reveals central principle (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,425



STAMPEDED RAPID
E B L I O I O I
PERHAPS HIDEOUS
I A I T E R P
ASHEN INCURABLE
A T N O O N
GEM INCOMETAXES
L F T P E E
ADOLFHITLER SAD
D B O I M O
INORGANIC AXIOM
A I Y A G G A
[illegible]OSSPOT TRAINED
T S O E N E A
[illegible]SKY MIDSTREAM

Times Two Crossword, page 44

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Manston, Kent, 18C (64F); lowest day max: Cape Wrath, Highland, 9C (48F); highest rainfall: Machrihanish, Argyll & Bute, 0.12in; highest sunshine: Margate, Kent, 9.0hr.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will be mainly dry with bright intervals, but the West will become more cloudy during the day and there may be patchy drizzle at times. It will be breezy later, but temperatures should be above average.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be cloudy with outbreaks of rain. It may be dry for a time, but more rain is likely to spread from the West. It will be windy in most places, but temperatures should be a little above average.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Channel Isles, Central N England:** mainly dry, bright or sunny intervals developing. Wind southwesterly, moderate to fresh. Mild. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** mostly cloudy, outbreaks of light rain or drizzle later. Wind southwesterly, fresh to strong. Mild. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen:** dry at first, but cloudy. Perhaps some rain at times during the day. Wind southwesterly, fresh becoming strong later. Mild. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland:** cloudy, rain or drizzle at times. Wind southwesterly, fresh to strong. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney:** cloudy, occasional rain. Wind west or southwest, fresh to strong. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Shetland:** rain at times, perhaps turning to sleet or wet snow. Wind fresh westerly becoming northeasterly. Max 4C (39F).

☐ **Outlook for Friday and Saturday:** dry start in the South, but most places becoming cloudy and wet.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

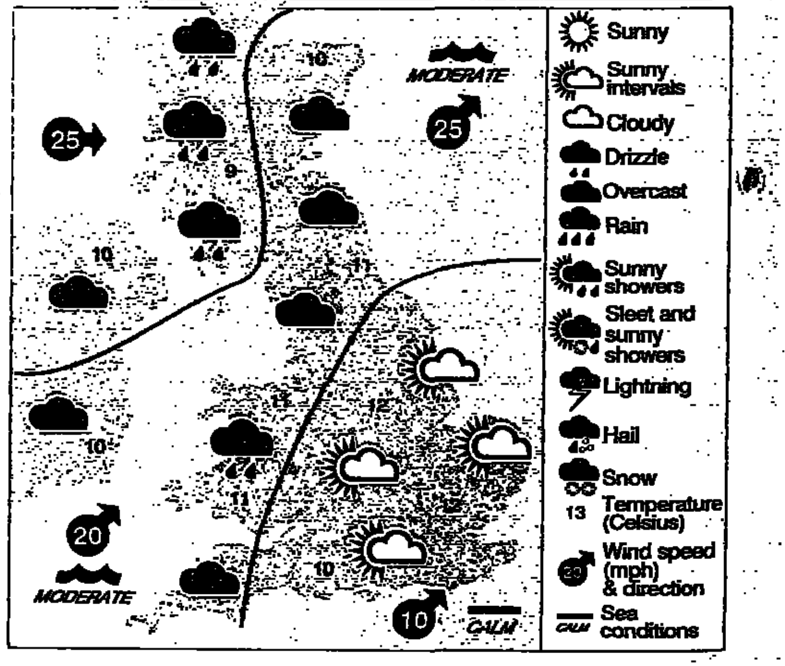
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	X					Lowestoft	7.4	0.01	15	59	s
Anglesey	0.1	0.04	10	50	fg	Manchester	1 7	-	13	55	b
Aspatria	0.5	0.02	10	50	r	Margate	9.0	0.01	17	63	s
Aviemore	2.8	0 01	13	55	b	Minehead	5.1	-	15	59	b
Belfast	1.4	0 02	13	55	c	Morecambe	-	0 07	9	48	r
Birmingham	5 1	-	15	59	b	Newcastle	X				
Bognor R	5 8	-	14	57	s	Newquay	0 3	-	13	55	c
Bournem'th	4.2	0.01	16	61	b	Norwich	6.2	-	16	61	s
Bristol	3.2	-	13	55	s	Oxford	4.2	-	1457		
Buxton	4 3	-	12	54	s	Penzance	X	-	13	55	b
Cardiff	-	0 01	11	52	fg	Poole	3 1	0 01	17	63	s
Colwyn Bay	5 4	-	15	59	s	Prestatyn	X				
Cromer	6.5	-	14	57	s	Ross-o-wye	3.4	-	14	57	s
Eastbourne	8.3	0.01	14	57	s	Ryde	X				
Edinburgh	0.8	0.01	12	54	r	Salcombe	0 8	0.01	13	55	c
Eskdalemuir	-	0.03	9	48	r	Sandown	6 0	-	13	55	s
Falmouth	-	-	12	54	du	Sauntn Snd	-	-	10	50	du
Fishguard	X					Scarboro'	7.6	-	13	55	s
Folkestone	8.8	-	14	57	s	Shanklin	X				
Glasgow	-	0 03	10	50	r	Shrewsbury	6.2	0 01	13	55	s
Guernsey	4.7	-	15	59	s	Skegness	5 0	-	15	59	s
Hastings	8 5	-	15	59	s	Southend	X				
Hayling I	3.3	0 01	12	54	s	Southport	X				
Herne Bay	7.3	-	17	63	s	Southsea	2.5	0 01	13	55	s
Hove	7.2	X	11	52	s	Stornoway	0.4	0 08	11	52	r
Hunstanton	X	-	14	57	fg	Swanage	6.7	-	13	55	s
Isle of Man	X					Teignmouth	1 4	0 01	15	59	b
Jersey	2 1	-	13	55	fg	Tenby	0.2	-	12	54	fg
Kinloss	2.0	0.01	14	57	b	Tiree	-	0.07	11	52	c
Leeds	X					Torquay	4.2	0.01	14	57	s
Lerwick	0.2	0.01	9	48	fg	Tynemouth	-	-	11	52	c
Leuchars	4 5	0 01	13	55	s	Ventnor	8.4	-	15	59	s
Littlehmptn	7 6	-	16	61	s	West-s-mare	-	-	13	55	b
London	6 6	-	16	61	s	Weymouth	0.2	-	11	52	fg

ABROAD

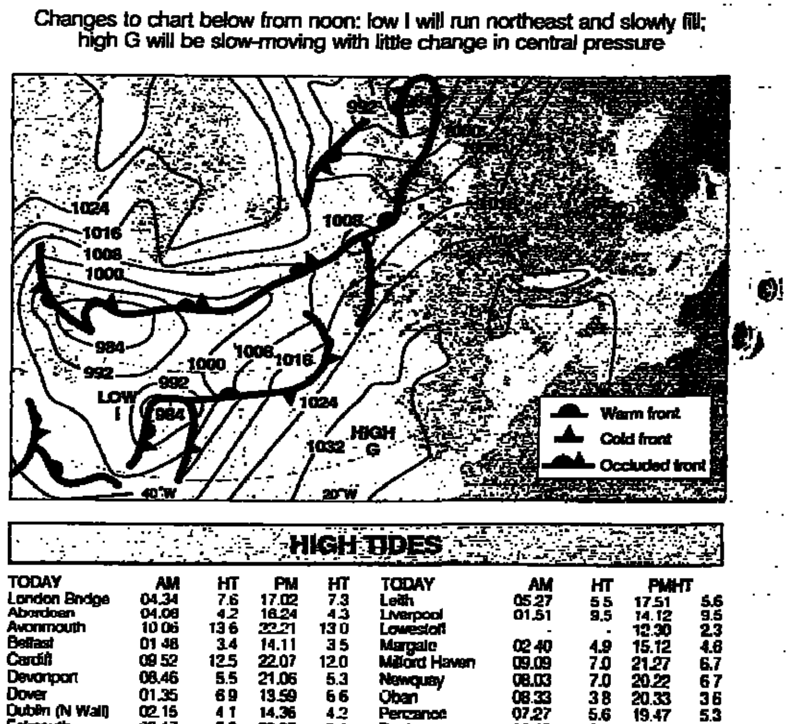
Ajaccio	17	63	s	Corfu	16	61	s	Majorca	18	64	s	Rome	17	63	f
Akrotiri	19	66	f	C'phagn	4	39	c	Malaga	18	64	s	S Fr'sco	12	54	f
Alex'dria	20	68	s	Dublin	11	52	s	Malta	13	55	s	S Paulo	30	86	c
Algiers	17	63	s	Dubrovnik	13	55	f	Melb'rne	21	70	s	Salzburg	14	57	s
Amst'dm	7	45	c	Faro	18	64	s	Mexico C	21	70	s	Santiago	34	93	s
Athens	11	52	r	Florence	15	59	s	Miami	26	79	s	Seoul	13	55	s
B Aires	28	82	f	Frankfurt	16	61	s	Milan	17	63	s	Sing'por	28	82	f
Bahrain	19	66	r	Funchal	19	66	s	Montreal	2	36	s	St'kholm	9	48	f
Bangkok	33	91	s	Geneva	13	55	f	Moscow	8	46	s	Strasb'rg	17	63	s
Barbados	28	82	c	Gibraltar	18	64	f	Munich	14	57	s	Sydney	25	77	s
Barcelona	17	63	s	Helsinki	6	43	s	N Delhi	29	84	c	Tangier	20	68	s
Beirut	20	68	f	Hong K	25	77	f	N York	8	46	r	Tel Aviv	19	66	f
Belgrade	11	52	f	Innsbrck	16	61	s	Nairobi	28	82	f	Tenerife	22	72	s
Berlin	14	57	s	Istanbul	8	46	f	Naples	11	52	X	Tokyo	17	63	s
Bermuda	19	66	c	Jeddah	26	79	c	Nice	17	63	s	Toronto	-1	30	c
Biarritz	21	70	s	Jo'burg	X			Oslo	12	54	s	Tunis	17	63	s
Borde'x	23	73	s	L Angels	X			Paris	17	63	s	Valencia	19	66	s
Brussels	6	43	fg	L Palmas	22	72	s	Peking	7	45	c	Vanc'ver	4	39	r
Budapst	10	50	s	Le Touquet	17	63	s	Perth	24	75	s	Venice	15	59	s
Cairo	21	70	s	Lisbon	18	64	s	Prague	14	57	s	Vienna	13	55	s
Cape Tn	X			Locarno	14	57	s	Reykjavik	0	32	sn	Warsaw	14	57	s
Ch'church	13	55	X	Luxembg	16	61	s	Rhodes	18	64	s	Wash'ton	17	63	c
Chicago	4	39	s	Luxor	25	77	s	Rio de J	29	84	f	Wel'ngton	15	59	X
Cologne	13	55	s	Madrid	16	61	s	Riyadh	17	63	f	Zurich	15	59	s

Temperatures at midday local time on Tuesday X – not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: low I will run northeast and slowly fill; high G will be slow-moving with little change in central pressure



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	04.34	7.6	17.02	7.3	Leith	05.27	5 5	17.51	5.6
Aberdeen	04.08	4.2	16.24	4.3	Liverpool	01.51	9.5	14.12	9.5
Avonmouth	10 06	13 6	22.21	13 0	Lowestoft	-	-	12.30	2.3
Belfast	01 48	3.4	14.11	3 5	Margate	02 40	4.9	15.12	4.8
Cardiff	09 52	12.5	22.07	12.0	Milford Haven	09.09	7.0	21.27	6.7
Devonport	08.46	5.5	21.06	5.3	Newquay	08.03	7.0	20.22	6 7
Dover	01.35	6 9	13.59	6 6	Oban	08.33	3 8	20.33	3 6
Dublin (N Wall)	02.15	4 1	14.36	4.2	Penzance	07.27	5.6	19.47	5.3
Falmouth	08.17	5.3	20.37	5.1	Portland	09.49	2.0	22.00	1.9
Greenock	03 11	3 5	15 32	3.7	Portsmouth	01.58	4.7	14.15	4.6
Harwich	02.24	4.3	14 51	4.0	Shoreham	01.50	6 5	14.12	6.2
Holyhead	00.57	5.6	13.19	5.7	Southampton	01.24	4.6	13.42	4.5
Hull (Albert D)	09.06	8 7	21.23	8 9	Swansea	09.12	9.5	21.30	9.0
Ilfracombe	08 54	9.4	21.09	8 9	Tees	06.35	5.3	18.51	5.4
King's Lynn	09 15	6 5	21.28	6.7	Walton-on-N	02.18	4.4	14.44	4.2

All times GMT. Heights in metres

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.19 am
Sun sets: 6.02 pm
Moon sets: 11.48 pm
Moon rises: 8.43 am

London 6.02 pm to 6 17 am
Bristol 6 12 pm to 6.27 am
Edinburgh 6 12 pm to 6 31 am
Manchester 6 09 pm to 6.26 am
Penzance 6.24 pm to 6.38 am

First quarter March 16

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THURSDAY MARCH 13 1997

ANDRÉ CAMARA

John Church, chairman of Church & Co shoes, reflects on an 18 per cent rise in pre-tax profits last year to £5.4 million. Earnings per share rose by 17 per cent to 31.7p and the total dividend goes up to 15.75p (14.5p). The company said that it had been able to do well despite a poor shoe market

Iceland plans buyback as profits slide by 23%

By Sarah Cunningham

ICELAND, the beleaguered food retailing group, revealed yesterday that it plans to buy back a third of its shares, having abandoned hopes of taking the company private.

The buyback scheme, costing £118 million, was announced as Iceland reported a fall of almost 23 per cent in 1996 profits, reflecting the cost of the price war being fought by the supermarket chains.

Malcolm Walker, chairman and chief executive, said he and Bernard Leigh, finance director — who between them hold a stake of around 6 per cent — had held talks with venture capitalists about a buyout but had been unable to agree financing terms.

Iceland proposes to cancel 35 per cent of its ordinary shares at 105p per share, a 20 per cent premium to Tuesday's closing price. The shares rose 12p to 99½p yesterday.

The scheme enables disaffected shareholders to sell out at a premium and ensure improved earnings per share for the remaining shareholders, Mr Walker said. Directors' holdings are excluded from the scheme.

The company underlined its own difficulties by reporting a 22.6 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £56.2 million in the year to December 28, its first decline in annual profits in 26 years. Iceland, like the other smaller supermarket groups, has been struggling to cope with the growing dominance of the big four — Tesco, J Sainsbury, Safeway and Asda.

Earnings fell to 13.15p (17.01p) a share but the final dividend stays at 3.6p. This gives a full-year dividend of 5.4p (5.25p), due on May 27. Dividends are likely to be maintained but not increased for the foreseeable future.

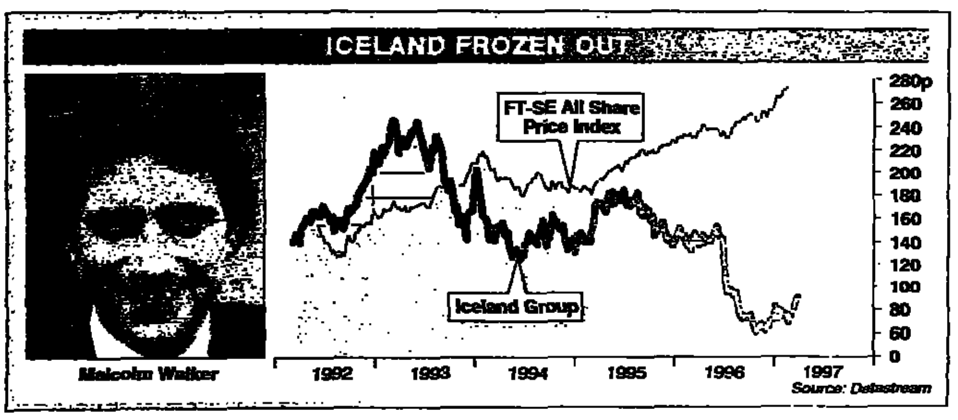
Like-for-like sales were slightly higher in cash terms but down 1.2 per cent in volume. They have risen 0.5 per cent in the first few weeks of this year. The company said it sacrificed 0.4 per cent of its buying margin last year in an ill-fated price campaign.

Iceland is arranging a new loan facility through BZW and will spend around £118 million to fund the buyback. Its gearing will rise from around 28 per cent to between 125 and 130 per cent on a pro-forma basis. Mr Leigh said that the company should be "throwing off a lot of cash from next year," which will allow it to lower its gearing.

Holders of ordinary shares will receive 315p in cash for every eight shares held and will retain 5 shares. Holders of convertible preference shares will receive 288p in cash for each eight shares and retain five shares.

It is the second capital reduction for the company which bought back 10 per cent of its shares a year ago.

Mr Walker insisted that the company would push ahead with new initiatives, including a national home delivery service, which is expected to created 1,000 jobs. Delivery is free for purchases of £25 or more within ten miles of stores.



Source: Datastream

Pennington, page 25

Pound falls as output dents case for rate rise

By Janet Bush, Economics Editor

THE pound took a battering yesterday as another sluggish set of manufacturing figures further weakened the argument for higher base rates.

Foreign exchange dealers also took fright after Howard Davies, deputy governor of the Bank of England, was reported to have expressed concern about the pound's strength against the mark.

The pound's effective index against a basket of currencies finished at 96.8 from its close on Tuesday at 97.6. In late trading, it was quoted at DM2.7105 compared with DM2.7379 at the previous close. It had hit a high of DM2.7482 before the deputy governor's remarks.

Sterling tumbled after Japan's Jiji news agency quoted Howard Davies, who is in Tokyo, as saying the pound was slightly too high against the mark. Mr Davies later said reports of his remarks were misleading because he had simply expressed the view of sterling priced into the financial markets, not the opinion of the Bank of England.

A British Embassy official quoted Mr Davies as saying: "Looking at the forward rate for the pound, it seems that the market is indicating that the pound's future value would level out or drop against the mark." The pound rebounded after this clarification, but only temporarily. It resumed its slide later in the day, partly in reaction to the latest snapshot of British industrial activity which tended to support the case for leaving interest rates unchanged at 6 per cent.

The Office for National Statistics said UK industrial output was unchanged in January, but was up 2.4 per cent against a year ago. Manufacturing output was up 0.3 per cent, a rise of 1.6 per cent year on year. Taking the three months to January, manufacturing was up only 0.3 per cent compared with the previous three months, the lowest quarterly rate of growth since August last year.

The manufacturing figures showed that the production of durable goods remained robust, suggesting that consumer demand is still healthy. Production of investment goods was buoyant too. Some City economists said the latest figures suggested that the strength of domestic demand still outweighed the negative impact of sterling.

Others were not so optimistic, pointing to recent survey evidence suggesting that some steam has been lost from the consumer recovery and that sterling's strength — still considerable despite recent declines — is already eating into exports, militating against the higher base rates that the Bank still appears to want. Mr Davies said yesterday the Bank would like base rates 0.25 points higher.

Andrew Cates, of UBS Ltd, said that, because of sterling, he did not expect the small recovery in manufacturing to gain momentum in the coming months. "Combined with the raft of data over the past two weeks or so suggesting that activity in the domestic economy may be slowing and that upside inflationary risks are limited, there is little necessity for a base rate rise at the moment," he said.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4422.5	(-21.8)
Yield	3.64%	
FTSE All share	2156.05	(-7.89)
Nikkei	18183.27	(-84.45)
New York:		
Dow Jones	7072.46	(-12.70)*
S&P Composite	808.12	(-3.22)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¼%*	(5 5/16%)
Long Bond	97 1/32*	(97 5/32)
Yield	6.86%*	(6.85%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6 5/32%	(6 5/32%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	111 15/32	(112¼)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5927*	(1.6067)
London:		
$	1.5930	(1.6044)
DM	2.7103	(2.7379)
FFr	9.1456	(9.2295)
SFr	2.3553	(2.3672)
Yen	195.35	(195.60)
£ Index	96.8	(97.6)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.7021*	(1.7050)
FFr	5.7410*	(5.7485)
SFr	1.4659*	(1.4720)
Yen	122.68*	(121.85)
$ Index	104.2	(104.0)

Tokyo close Yen 122.63

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (May)	$19.30	($19.10)

GOLD

London close	$352.75	($352.25)

* denotes midday trading price

Schroders bonus

A record year for Schroders has produced a rise in the total bonus payment of about £50 million for staff. The bank announced post-tax profits of £184 million, up £41.2 million.
Page 24

Reed pounded

Reed Elsevier, the Anglo-Dutch publishing company, warned the stock market that the strength of sterling would this year hold back the earnings growth at the British arm.
Page 25

Warburg trading inquiry by SFA

By Jon Ashworth

SBC WARBURG, the investment bank, has become the latest City institution to fall foul of regulators. The Securities and Futures Authority (SFA) confirmed yesterday that it was investigating £300 million in share trades linked to the defunct Kleinwort European Privatisation Investment Trust (Kepit).

The move comes hard on the heels of events at NatWest Markets, which today publishes its initial findings into the £50 million "black-hole" trading scandal. Bonus cuts and resignations are expected.

Peter Corrigan, head of French equities at SBC Warburg, has resigned after an internal inquiry. Another trader has also left.

The SFA team, under David Kenmir, is studying sharp falls in several European shares on October 30, 1996, when SBC Warburg executed share sales on behalf of Kepit. A mistake by a Paris-based trader on the timing of the sale is thought to have triggered the falls. SBC Warburg made good the loss to Kepit at a reputed cost of between £2 million and £5 million.

The bank said it continued to assist the SFA in its ongoing investigation.

Forex trade, page 24
Pennington, page 25

More Revenue staff come under scrutiny

By Adam Jones

THE head of the Inland Revenue yesterday confirmed to MPs that other employees are being investigated in the wake of the Michael Allcock case.

Allcock, a senior tax inspector, was sentenced to five years in prison for corruption this year. Sir Anthony Battishill, Revenue chairman, told MPs on the Select Committee on Public Accounts that internal inquiries into other possible breaches are not yet complete.

No disciplinary action has yet been taken against any other parties.

Sir Anthony also admitted that the Revenue had been "unwise" to allow tax inspectors to go abroad at the expense of the person they were investigating. The practice — which has since been abandoned — came under the spotlight in the Allcock hearings.

However, Sir Anthony denied that Allcock's sudden possession of large sums, which he passed off as inherited money, should have rung alarm bells. Sir Anthony said: "He did have plausible reasons. There's a limit to the degree which you can enquire about someone's direct financial affairs."

Sir Anthony told the committee that Allcock received full pay between the day he was suspended and the day charges were laid. He received between £64,486 and £67,277 over that period. Undisclosed "hardship" payments were available beyond that point. Sir Anthony said: "He was remarkably good at covering the misdeeds he was engaged in."

MPs also quizzed the Revenue on the progress of the new self-assessment tax regime. They heard that the original tax return used in trials, running to about 30 pages, has been slimmed down to eight pages for greater clarity.

Additional pages would be included to tailor the document to the particular need of the taxpayer.

Barclays sells Imry minus its 'jewel'

By Carl Mortished

BARCLAYS BANK has sold part of the Imry property portfolio to Rodamco, the Dutch fund, for £249 million. The deal includes the Shires shopping centre in Leicester and 14 office buildings, but Rodamco has pulled out of talks over the West Quay shopping centre project in Southampton, widely regarded as the jewel in Imry's crown.

Rodamco said yesterday that it was still interested in purchasing the 750,000 sq ft West Quay project. Chris Bartram of Haslemere Properties, Rodamco's UK subsidiary, said the deal foundered on price. Rodamco's interest, revealed in *The Times* last month, followed the collapse of talks with Chelsfield, also thought to be because of disagreement over price.

Barclays intends to release £25 million from a £44 million provision taken out against its investment in Imry. The proceeds will repay debts of £91 million owed to Barclays, as well as preference shares held by the bank when it took over Imry in 1992 after its support of the £314 million buyout of the property group. The proceeds will also repay loans of £114 million owed by Imry to third parties.

Rodamco is believed to have paid up to £165 million for the Shires centre with the balance for office properties, including the Wang building near the M4 in West London. In addition to West Quay, Imry is also retaining a £110 million industrial property portfolio. The property company announced yesterday that Marks & Spencer had agreed to take 106,000 sq ft in West Quay, and reported that Southampton City council had granted detailed planning consent for the project. Construction will start this year.

Tempus, page 26

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Friends Provident	36.04
Midland Life	36.28
Swiss Life	37.88
Clerical Medical	40.20
We can arrange this for	**17.60**

Male aged 45 next birthday , a cigar smoker.	
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Commercial Union	80.50
General Accident	85.20
Friends Provident	88.99
Clerical Medical	95.50
Midland Life	96.63
Swiss Life	98.73
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Hong Kong budget bridges the old and new

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

DONALD TSANG, Hong Kong's Financial Secretary, yesterday announced a budget for 1997-98 that is unique and unrepeatable. It is a first and last budget, operative from April to April, bridging the transfer of sovereignty on July 1. It is also the only budget in which Peking has been consulted at every step. From next year, Mr Tsang has emphasised, budget formulation will again be a solely Hong Kong affair.

Reactions to the budget fell broadly into two camps. These consisted of those who felt that the measure was mean-spirited to the poor and the old, and those who wished that Mr Tsang had announced reductions in corporate tax.

Mr Tsang said that Hong Kong's GDP growth will improve to 5.5 per cent, in real terms, and that inflation, slightly up, will average 7 per cent.

The estimated surplus for 1996-97 is HK$15.1 billion (£1.2 billion), about five times the original estimate, rising to HK31.7 billion in 1997-98. Mr Tsang estimated the three-year surplus from 1998 to 2001 at about £4.7 billion. However, he said that continuing costs of the new airport and new railways "will take up virtually all the surplus from 1998 to 2001".

Fiscal reserves available to the new government in 1998 will be HK$330 billion.

Mr Tsang announced substantial concessions to middle-class families, single parents, and those supporting the disabled, the elderly, and brothers and sisters. These concessions, he said, expressed Chinese family values. However, Mr Tsang left unchanged Hong Kong's salaries tax rate at 15 per cent and the corporate tax rate at 16.5 per cent.

Paul Chen, of Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce, said that, with such a big surplus he was "disappointed he didn't cut company tax".

Huang Chen-ya, for the Democrats in the Legislative Council, said that they might vote against the budget. He said: "The Government is so stingy with the poor." Referring to a budget cut in tax on wine, Mr Huang said: "We have the rich able to drink their red wine, but the poor don't have enough money for daily living."

Profits rise at Charles Baynes

Charles Baynes, the engineering group, raised pretax profits by 27 per cent to £22.5 million in the year to December 31 on sales up 24 per cent to £251 million. Earnings rose by 20 per cent to 8.39p per share out of which total dividend rose 16 per cent to 2.90p.

Bruce McInnes, chairman, said: "The lack of any buoyancy in our served markets, particularly in the UK, in the second half of 1996 has continued, if anything more severely into this year. I am therefore cautious about the prospects for sales growth in 1997."

AIM switch

Billam, the engineering group, is to become the third company to move from the main Stock Exchange to the Alternative Investment Market.

The company is making the move to avoid the paperwork necessary for a major acquisition. It broke into profit last year, making £35,000 before tax (£150,000 loss). The dividend is held at 5.3p with a final 3.1p.

Payout cut

Leslie Wise, the clothing manufacturer, cut the final dividend despite higher profits and earnings, as it seeks to invest more. A final dividend of 1.25p a share (2.5p), due April 29, reduced the total to 3p from 4.25p. In the year to November 30 pre-tax profits rose to £2.8 million from £1.04 million.

Haden higher

Haden MacLellan, the diversified engineering group, lifted pre-tax profits by 40 per cent to £15.5 million last year. A final dividend of 1.6p makes a total of 2.8p (2.4p).

Losses grow

Lionheart, the bathroom products group, saw pretax losses deepen to £12.7 million in 1996 from £6.85 million.

Peter Pollock is to become non-executive chairman.

Forex trade drives 54% rise at SBC Warburg

BY JON ASHWORTH

GAINS in foreign exchange dealings helped SBC Warburg, the investment bank, to lift pre-tax profits 54 per cent to $759 million last year.

The figures, including the first full year for the former SG Warburg, show strong progress in all main business areas. However, the inclusion of Warburg, coupled with currency swings, pushed operating costs 33 per cent higher, to $2.6 billion, with higher bonuses linked to the good results contributing.

SBC Warburg, led in London by Hans de Gier, chairman and chief executive, benefited from the strengthening of the main operating currencies against the Swiss franc. Revenue gains of 20 per cent or more were seen across each of the main business areas — foreign exchange, interest rates, equities and corporate finance.

Corporate finance saw gross revenues rise 54 per cent, to $419 million, on sharply increased activity. SBC Warburg acted for Forte in its defence against Granada, for Kvaerner in its acquisition of Trafalgar House, and for Tetra Laval in the reorganisation of its shareholder structure. It was ranked number one among advisers to UK target companies last year.

Hans de Gier saw 20 per cent gains in all key areas

Equities, the biggest division, saw gross revenues rise 31 per cent to $1.2 billion. The inclusion of SG Warburg was reflected in a big rise in both fee income and commission-based revenues. SBC Warburg acted as lead manager of the UK tranche of Deutsche Telekom, Europe's largest ever equity offering. It also handled the Railtrack sale.

The details emerged as Swiss Bank Corporation announced profits before tax and extraordinary items up 31 per cent at $1.3 billion. New methodology for accounting for credit provisions, and a change in valuation practices for the bank's real estate portfolio, resulted in a one-off technical loss of $1.4 billion.

Swiss Bank set aside $1 billion towards doubtful debts and contingencies. Some $24 million was contributed to a fund set up for victims of the Holocaust. Depreciation and amortization was 45 per cent higher, at $737 million. The increase was driven by a $78 million charge to cover the writedown in value of a bank property in New York.

The biggest contribution to group profits came from SBC Private Banking, which increased its net profit by just under 19 per cent to $787 million. SBC Warburg, the investment banking division, lifted net profits 55 per cent to $607 million and generated a return on equity of more than 16 per cent.

SBC Switzerland cut net losses to $70 million ($111 million loss), but remained burdened by high loan loss provisions. Of SBC Warburg's 9,000 staff, 3,200 are in the UK.

Druid predicts 40,000 programmer shortfall

BY OUR CITY STAFF

A SHORTAGE of British computer software programmers will leave companies seeking alternative methods to reprogramming to combat the year 2000 problem, David Thompson, chief executive of Druid, the computer software and services group said.

Mr Thompson said: "The millennium issue is in the process of creating a shortage of programmers over the next two to three years, peaking in 1999." His analysis of independent data suggests that the shortage in 1999 could be 40,000 programmers.

Druid specialises in implementing integrated business systems for large national and multinational companies with multiple sites. Mr Thompson said: "The shortage of programmmers means that many companies will not have the resources to amend their existing code and what we see at the moment is companies taking decisions to move to standard package software on the basis of the year 2000."

Druid, which floated last November, reported first half pre-tax profits to December of £1.8 million, up from £867,000. The group will pay an interim dividend of 0.8 pence.

Heinz staff fear fallout from coming shake-up

BY OUR BUSINESS STAFF

MORE than 2,000 UK employees of Heinz anxiously await news of a restructuring, to be announced by the multinational food manufacturer tomorrow, that is expected to result in a 6 per cent cut in its 43,000 worldwide workforce.

Unions fear the Heinz factories at Wigan in Lancashire and Harlesden in north west London, could be affected. Union leaders have already met managers and were told that the company wanted to make millions of pounds in savings and introduce a no-strike deal.

A Heinz spokesman refused to confirm details of the reorganisation, saying: "This initiative will further enhance the business. It is part of a growth plan designed to support our brands in a highly competitive market place."

Brian Revell, Transport and General Workers' Union national officer, said: "We are obviously prepared to negotiate, but the workers have rejected losing the right to strike. There is a history of good industrial relations at Heinz and the company is extremely profitable."

The life of O'Reilly, page 27

Schroders bonus tops £50m in record year

BY ADAM JONES

A RECORD year for Schroders has produced a total bonus payment of about £50 million for staff. Yesterday the bank announced a profit of £184 million after tax, up £41.2 million. However, costs rose 19 per cent to £698.4 million, partly caused by a 10 per cent increase in staff for the asset management team and the reorganised corporate finance department.

Schroders did not disclose the size of bonus payments, made last week to about 3,800 qualifying staff. However, it admitted that half the £108 million rise in staff costs was due to bonus increases for existing and new staff. Some payments will be deferred.

Win Bischoff, chairman, said he was pleased with the results but he gave warning that it would not be easy to repeat them in 1997, although the start to the year has been encouraging. He said the Bank of England's recent anxiety over the link between performance bonuses and high-risk trading was "a very useful contribution".

He added that Schroders' low dependence on proprietary trading — it contributed 6 per cent of the £958.4 million total income in 1996 — meant it was less open to criticism.

The pre-tax profit was within the £230-£240 million range predicted by analysts. The proposed total dividend of 20p, up from 16p in 1995, was larger than expected.

The bank's asset management arm recorded significant growth, with pre-tax profit up from £93 million to £132 million, accounting for 55 per cent of the total. Funds under management stood at £87.6 billion at the end of 1996, an 18 per cent rise from 1995. The sum had grown to £93 billion by the end of January.

John Govett, director responsible for asset management, said that £10.5 billion of the 1996 rise was new capital from customers as opposed to market increases.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Telewest loss belies cable success story

TELEWEST COMMUNICATIONS, the cable operator, has sold its services to one in every three households covered by its network. The company has completed 65 per cent of its cable-laying programme and said the take-up of its services last year had been phenomenal, with one in six households subscribing to both telephone and television services. Stephen Davidson, chief executive, said digital services would be launched by the end of this year.

Coupled with a 68 per cent increase in revenue from business telephony users, new customers helped the company to turn cashflow positive last year. But the pace of its network development took spending to £516 million, which after interest charges resulted in a pre-tax loss of £250 million (£115 million loss). This took losses from 10.5p to 17.7p a share.

AEA joint venture

AEA TECHNOLOGY, the nuclear-based science company, is forming a 50-50 joint venture company with Sumitomo Corporation of Japan to provide decommissioning, risk assessment and other consultancy services to owners of ageing nuclear reactors. Summit AEA Corp, capitalised at 100 million yen (around £500,000), will begin trading next month. AEA Technology has worked with Sumitomo in the nuclear field for about ten years.

Toys R Us income trebles

TOYS R US, the world's largest toys and and games retailer, reported a rise in full-year net income from $148.1 million to $427.4 million, or from 53 cents a share to $1.54 a share, in 1995. Sales rose 5 per cent to a record $9.9 billion ($9.4 billion). In the final quarter, which takes in the key Christmas trading period, net income more than quadrupled to $382.9 million from $93 million as sales edged up to $4.7 billion ($4.6 billion). The company has a total of 1,372 stores worldwide.

BSkyB shares sold

BSB HOLDINGS, whose principal shareholders are Granada Group, Pathe and Pearson, has sold 19.5 million shares in British Sky Broadcasting to BZW Securities, for placing with institutions. The shares amount to 1.1 per cent of the share capital of BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*. BSBH retains 220.6 million BSkyB shares, representing about 12.8 per cent of its share capital. BSkyB shares fell 1p to 632p yesterday.

LineOne launched

NEWS INTERNATIONAL, owner of *The Times*, yesterday launched LineOne, its internet services provider that is run jointly with British Telecom. The service includes coverage from *The Times*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Sun*, *News of The World* and Sky Television. Its research facilities include a newspaper library, stock market updates and company research facilities. Available for a monthly fee, it can be accessed through *www.lineone.net* or by calling 0800 111210.

News group advances

PROSPECTS for Midland Independent Newspapers have improved, according to Chris Oakley, chief executive. He cited buoyant advertising sales, lower newsprint costs and a better portfolio of titles. The regional press group's pre-tax profit rose to £16.6 million, from £15.8 million, before exceptional charges in the year to December 29. After £4.6 million in exceptionals, MIN made £12 million, against £16.3 million. Earnings per share were 8.06p (7.7p). A 2.5p final dividend makes 3.8p (3.5p).

Minorco advances

MINORCO, the mining group, raised net profits before exceptionals from $365 million to $396 million last year, on sales up from $4.247 billion to $5.014 billion. The dividend is unchanged, at 63 cents, on earnings down 13 cents, at $1.50. An exceptional charge of $119 million has been taken to cover the restructuring of the Morro Velho operation in Brazil. Minorco said that production increases in gold, copper and newsprint mitigated the price weakness of industrial commodities.

Brent lifts payout 60%

BRENT International, the UK chemicals company, is raising the total dividend 60 per cent after reporting a sharp recovery in pre-tax profits to £10.2 million last year, from £3.53 million in the previous year. Earnings were 8.6p a share, recovering from an adjusted 3.3p. The total dividend rises to 3.2p a share from 2p, with a 2.2p final. Group sales rose 4 per cent to £136 million, excluding businesses sold. The shares rose 9½p to 112p yesterday.

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VSEL wins £200m Navy tanker task

A £200 MILLION contract for two fuel tankers for replenishing Royal Navy warships at sea has been awarded to VSEL shipbuilders, now owned by GEC (Michael Evans writes).

The two fleet tankers, crewed by the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, will replace the vessels *Olwen* and *Olna*. The tankers, to be built at VSEL's Barrow shipyard, will have a helicopter deck and hangar, and military communications, with command and control facilities.

Invitations to tender were issued in February 1996 to two businesses, British Aerospace-Sema with Kvaerner Govan, and GEC Marine's VSEL.

Sigbjorn Ellingsen, managing director of Kvaerner Govan, said that up to 1,000 jobs would be lost at the Glasgow yard by the end of the year, leaving just 200, after its failure to win the tanker work.

Knight advocates minor changes to City regulation

BY JON ASHWORTH

CITY regulation needs to be less bureaucratic, more relevant, and less expensive — but widescale reform would do more harm than good, it was claimed yesterday.

Angela Knight, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said major structural change would be divisive, disruptive and costly. Addressing compliance officers in Bristol, Mrs Knight said changes to the existing framework would be more constructive. She said: "There is no doubt in my mind that what we need is the existing framework working better. Less box ticking, less paperwork, less bureaucracy, within the existing flexible framework."

Mrs Knight said there was always scope for adapting and improving the existing system to make regulation more effective. She said: "The past ten years have demonstrated that to seek perfection in a regulatory system is an illusion. There will always be fraudsters and there will always be negligence." Some supporters of structural reform favour the "twin peaks" system — one wholesale regulator and one retail regulator. Others want to wrap the Bank of England and Building Societies Commission into one. Still more favour an enlarged Securities and Investments Board — or super-SIB — with different arms regulating different areas of financial services.

Knight: less bureaucracy

Mrs Knight says change on this scale would take considerable time, and generate widespread uncertainty. It would also be expensive. She said: "It would be divisive, disruptive and costly for the industry at a time when just about every financial institution is asking for no more change."

Regulators, she said, would need to place more reliance on their judgment about the adequacy of a firm's own controls, in moving to a less-prescriptive system.

Job losses again blamed on lottery fallout

Vernons cuts more staff

BY JON ASHWORTH

VERNONS Pools is laying off 70 people at its Merseyside headquarters and cutting its national salesforce by 20, blaming continuing fallout from the National Lottery.

The cuts will leave Vernons' Merseyside workforce at 410, compared with 1,045 in 1994. The annual pools market has tumbled from £1 billion to £500 million since the first National Lottery draw in November 1994, and the impact of the midweek draw has yet to be felt.

The pools companies have consistently lobbied for changes in legislation to allow them to compete more effectively with the lottery. They want to be able to pay out small winnings in shops, and are talking to Camelot about using the lottery system to put games online.

Phil Jarrold, managing director of Vernons Pools, said: "We have had to take these steps to ensure the long-term viability of the business. We hope the next Parliament will agree changes in the law so that long-odds gaming is taxed on the same basis as other consumer products."

The pools companies pay 26.5 per cent in pools betting duty, as well as 3 per cent each to the Football Trust and the Foundation for Sport and the Arts. Multiweek games — played by post and telephone — account for more than half the group's turnover. The difficulties have come with games that rely on coupons collected door-to-door and from shops. Vernons is planning to make its 12,000-strong network of self-employed collectors more efficient.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.11	1.95
Austria Sch	20.22	18.72
Belgium Fr	59.32	55.02
Canada $	2.297	2.137
Cyprus Cyp£	0.849	0.794
Denmark Kr	11.00	10.20
Finland Mkk	8.75	8.10
France Fr	9.62	8.97
Germany Dm	2.89	2.68
Greece Dr	447	421
Hong Kong $	13.05	12.05
Iceland	120	100
Ireland Pt	1.08	1.00
Israel Shk	5.69	5.04
Italy Lira	2852	2677
Japan Yen	210.40	194.40
Malta	0.656	0.601
Netherlds Gld	3.227	2.997
New Zealand $	2.42	2.20
Norway Kr	11.46	10.66
Portugal Esc	284.50	266.00
S Africa Rd	7.72	6.92
Spain Pta	243.00	226.00
Sweden Kr	12.95	12.15
Switzerland Fr	2.49	2.31
Turkey Lira	210500	196500
USA $	1.702	1.572

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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☐ Entering the third Iceland age ☐ What happened in SBC's dealing room? ☐ Opportunity for private care sector

Freezing out the doubters

☐ WAIT around for long enough, and some clever corporate financier will eventually come up with a wizard scheme to do pretty well anything. No wonder the engineers complain that all the bright minds go elsewhere. The latest invention to emerge from the City's labs is the reverse rights issue.

Under a normal rights issue, you get shares in proportion to the number you hold, so maintaining your stake. The opposite is a share buyback, in vogue at the moment because companies have spare cash or because the cost of borrowing is so much lower than of servicing equity. But the trouble with these is that the big institutions tend to be at the head of the queue, and smaller or slower shareholders never get a look-in.

So NatWest has thought up a buyback for Iceland Group that allows investors to swap shares for cash in proportion to their individual holdings. Those that want to stay in are balanced out by more willing sellers. The result should be that shareholders depressed by Iceland's recent share price performance — and who wouldn't be? — can get out at a price 21 per cent higher than previously available, while loyal investors stay in.

Because of the group's dismal rating, the cost of equity is about 22 per cent, against bank debt costing 6 per cent or more. Borrowings soar — last year's interest bill would have been covered only four times by profits — but earnings per share would have been enhanced by 20 to 25 per cent.

All very laudable. But the buyback, only considered because taking the company private was too expensive, has a second effect, which we are assured is purely coincidental. It makes the company less vulnerable to a bid, by placing a firm price on the value of the shares while shooing those disaffected investors towards the exit. And Iceland, along with Kwik Save, are the two food retailers seen as most prone to a hostile takeover.

This is because Iceland is in the process of reinventing itself for the third time, two previous incarnations having been killed off by bigger competitors. First there were those arrays of freezer cabinets, until these became standard at any supermarket. Then Iceland was attracting a downmarket customer base by fierce price-cutting until the supermarkets got into that act as well. The latest plan is home deliveries, attractive to the company's carless clientele but unproven.

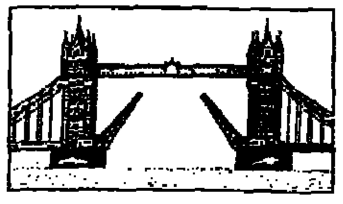
The big grocers would love to kill Iceland off, first for access to new customers and, second, because a few of its high street stores are ideal for brands such as Tesco's Metro late-night stores. Malcolm Walker, Iceland's founder, is convinced the company has a future. Time will tell. But his plan to give doubters an easy exit could well be followed by other bid-prone underperformers. Just as long as it does not become a matter of spending investors' money on keeping the board in their jobs.

More questions than answers

☐ IF DISASTERS come in threes, then there must be another around the corner. NatWest's derivatives problems seem to be technological incompetence, and today's internal report should make this clear.

SBC Warburg's entanglement with the burnt-out remains of the old Kleinwort European Privatisation Trust, or Kepit, looks potentially more serious. One's first thought, on news that someone handling that programme trade back in November had been a bit too clever, is that it just would be SBC, wouldn't it? The inventor of those contracts-for-differences that aroused such criticism during the electricity bids, and of that oh-so-ingenious Reuters special dividend last autumn that finally roused the Treasury to block a long-running tax loophole. The bank that seems to pride itself on being too clever for its own good.

PENNINGTON



SBC was charged by Kepit with liquidating the trust's shares portfolio, and as soon as the deal started, on the day the London market was thrown into confusion by an abrupt rise in interest rates, it ran into problems. There were rumours, denied by SBC, of a sacking at a senior level. There were reports that the bank had dropped a few million, having to make up the difference between what the shares should have fetched and what they eventually did.

We now have a confirmed sacking at a senior level, and a confirmed few million pounds down the drain. What we do not know is what happened in the dealing rooms on October 30. It seems that when it came to sell some of those shares, the indicative prices of stocks that were normally seldom traded were already falling.

What sparked those price falls? Was it ham-fistedness, other houses getting wind of the sale? Or was somebody at SBC perhaps being a little too clever in their dealings? And were they caught out by the timing?

Let us end with a quote from SBC's management accounts yesterday. "Costs were further inflated by higher, performance-related compensation, due to very good results." In other words, we did so well, we had to shovel out huge bonuses. And what happens when the bonus culture gets out of hand?

Nursing a grand ambition for gran

☐ ONE should not be too cynical about human nature. But one of the odd spin-offs from the collapse of the housing market was a bad shock for nursing homes — if one believes the operators.

The theory went thus. The decision by an elderly person to go into a home is often influenced, if not actually taken, by the offspring. In a vibrant housing market, the old dear can be shuffled off and there might still be enough left for that *gîte* in the Dordogne. In a falling market — well, the old do value their independence, don't they?

If the housing market is recovering, then, on this analysis, it should be good for nursing homes, a market so fragmented that the merger last autumn of the UK's biggest and third-biggest operators created a business with only a 5 per cent share. However, the sector has disappointed before. Care in the community should have provided occupants from among hospital patients — except that councils could not afford to pay private operators, and so left their charges in hospital, where the NHS picked up the bill.

A nursing home runs on largely fixed costs; drop below a certain occupancy level and it is unprofitable. The industry had too many beds and not enough takers. This week offered some fresh hope. Monday's incentives to help the elderly to afford care could provide a few more customers, as and when.

Yesterday's promise to require councils to sell most of their old people's homes would provide further expansion. Because of the difficulty in filling beds, growth already tends to come from taking over existing homes already furnished with occupants, rather than splashing out on new properties.

Only one caution. Let us hope that the contracting out of care of the elderly is rather better handled than the last time that the private sector was handed such a huge opportunity by the Government. That was in the late 1980s, when people were encouraged to break free from occupational schemes and opt for personal pensions. The result was the shaming of the pensions industry.

Marsh & McLennan buys rival

Marsh & McLennan has agreed to buy rival Johnson & Higgins for $1.8 billion, consolidating its position as the world's biggest insurance broker.

M&M will pay about $600 million in cash and the rest in shares. Johnson & Higgins is the third largest insurance broker in America and fifth biggest in the world.

With 9,000 employees and 145 offices around the world, it had total revenues of $1.2 billion in 1996, primarily from its insurance-related operations.

Malaya up

Malaya, the motor dealer, returned pre-tax profits of £2.5 million (£2.09 million) last year after disposal costs of £500,000. Both new and used car sales rose 15 per cent against last year, with volume sales rising 18 per cent. Malaya is changing its name to H R Owen, after a specialist car dealer it bought three years ago. After a heavier tax charge, earnings were 1p (0.96p), while the total dividend was held at 0.66p. A final 0.33p is due on May 6.

Bank offer

Jacques de Larosière, president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, said he has been offered a second term in the position by the bank's governors. He succeeded Jacques Attali in 1993 for a four-year term and he will give his answer in a few months.

Ascot deal

Ascot Holdings, the industrial group, has sold Metro House, Harrow, for £1.5 million, payable in full on completion, which will occur on April 22. Howard Dyer, the Ascot chairman and chief executive, said the disposal is "in line with the company's stated strategy of disposing of property assets to further reduce gearing."

Argent fall

Argent, the property group, reported pre-tax profits of £6.67 million (£13.63 million) in the year to December 31. Earnings were 8.2p (19p). Argent raised net assets per share from 287p to 312p in the year.

Sterling strength prompts warning from Reed Elsevier

By Alasdair Murray

REED ELSEVIER, the Anglo-Dutch publishing company, gave warning yesterday that the strength of sterling would hold back earnings growth this year at Reed International — the UK-quoted arm of the company.

Nigel Stapleton, co-chairman, predicted that at current levels the pound would knock about 5 per cent from profits. He added that investment in electronic publishing was also likely to act as a drag on margins although it should promote organic growth in the medium term.

Reed plans to spend more than £60 million this year on developing its electronic publishing businesses, which include LEXIS-NEXIS, the online business information service. Electronic publishing now accounts for nearly 20 per cent of total revenue and Reed predicts that growth will continue to outstrip demand for traditional print formats.

Reed Elsevier announced an 11 per cent increase in full-year profits to £805 million. Earnings per share for Reed International shareholders rose 9 per cent to 56.2p, compared with a 13 per cent increase for shareholders in Elsevier, the Dutch-quoted arm.

The total dividend was increased 11 per cent to 27.2p for Reed International shareholders. Turnover from continuing businesses increased 5 per cent to £3.4 billion. Operating profits in the professional division increased 21 per cent to £274 million, driven by strong performances from its legal businesses and LEXIS-NEXIS.

The business division increased operating profits 7 per cent to £273 million thanks to good growth in its exhibitions and business information units. But the division suffered from a continued decline in hard-copy travel publishing. Reed is aiming to expand its electronic output from the travel business to reverse the decline.

The scientific division increased profits 9 per cent to £231 million. Reed is aiming to launch ScienceDirect, its first science-based online information service, in the second half of the year.

Profits in the consumer division rose 13 per cent to £78 million. Reed expects IPC, the consumer magazine business, to benefit this year from stronger advertising revenues and lower paper prices.

Mr Stapleton added that the company is well positioned to make further acquisitions this year and looked forward to continued growth. Reed also announced it would be making a two-for-one share split in May. A final dividend of 18.95p is payable on May 28.

Nigel Stapleton expects a 5 per cent dent in profits

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ICL loss reduced to £2.5m

ICL, the information technology group, is close to breaking even after successive years of losses (Christine Buckley writes).

The UK systems and services group owned by Fujitsu of Japan reported a pre-tax loss of £2.5 million for 1996. It lost £188.3 million in 1995, when there was an exceptional charge of £129.6 million. ICL has reshaped its operations since Fujitsu took control in 1990, aiming to shift out of computer hardware to focus on systems, services and integration. Last year it won the largest private finance initiative contract in a £1 billion deal to automate the UK's post offices. ICL cut operating losses from £31.2 million to £19.9 million in 1996, on sales down from £3.1 billion to £2.9 billion.

Dyno-Rod seeks to lay OFT trap for Rentokil

By Paul Durman

DYNO-ROD, the privately owned franchise operation best-known for unblocking drains, is to complain to the Office of Fair Trading about the sales practices of Rentokil's pest control business.

Dyno-Rod, which has just established Dyno-Kil to challenge for Rentokil's 60 per cent market share, said the larger company "is acting against the public interest in some of its tactics". It declined to give more details.

In 1988, Rentokil was found by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to have acted against the public interest, including using predatory pricing against smaller rivals. It has since had to spell out its labour, materials and overheads costs but its prices have remained 10 to 15 per cent higher than its competitors.

Thompson: 'better quality'

Sir Clive Thompson, chief executive of Rentokil Initial, dismissed Dyno-Rod's criticisms as a publicity stunt. He said Rentokil's customers were happy to pay higher prices for better quality.

Rentokil Initial yesterday reported that the UK pest control business suffered a fall in profits last year. The group only maintained its target of 20 per cent earnings growth because of the eight-month contribution from Initial and the other businesses acquired as part of last year's takeover of BET.

The old Rentokil businesses increased pre-tax profits by 9 per cent to £233.4 million. As well as redundancy and exchange-rate costs, Sir Clive blamed the management time devoted to integrating BET, which contributed profits of £84.6 million.

Group pre-tax profits rose 48.2 per cent to £318 million on sales 167.6 per cent higher at £2.3 billion. This produced earnings per share of 17.13p, a 20.5 per cent rise. Rentokil Initial will pay a final dividend of 3.58p on May 17. This increases the total payment by 20.5 per cent to 5.06p a share.

Tempus, page 26

TI plans more acquisitions to extend global operations

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent

TI GROUP, the UK engineer, that spent £275 million on acquisitions last year, expects to make further purchases this year as it seeks to strengthen global operations.

Weakness in European markets was offset by stronger trading in America and expansion in Asia and Latin America. Pre-tax profits rose 26 per cent, to £232.2 million, with a 16 per cent advance in underlying profits after stripping out gains from disposals.

Sir Christopher Lewinton, chairman, forecast tough trading again in Europe in 1997, but said the group was well placed to progress because of its geographical spread and the range of its businesses. TI's operations embrace mechanical seals and engineering polymers, tubing for the automotive and refrigeration industries, and aerospace.

Profit from UK operations fell to £49.3 million, from £50.7 million, and in Continental Europe fell to £50.6 million, from £51.1 million. Profits in North America rose 26 per cent, to £101.1 million, and the rest of the world jumped 46 per cent, to £18.1 million.

Sales climbed 3 per cent to £1.75 billion, although the underlying turnover, modified for acquisitions, disposals and currency movements, rose 5 per cent. The final dividend is lifted 11 per cent, to 9.75p a share, due May 30, making a total of 14.5p (13.1p).

Cortecs developing anti-plague vaccine

By Paul Durman

CORTECS International, the biotechnology company, is working with the Defence Evaluation Research Agency (Dera) at Porton Down to create a vaccine to combat biological weapons that kill by spreading bubonic and pneumonic plague.

Dera wants to use Cortecs' expertise in creating oral drugs to deliver its antigens against the plague. Cortecs has been working with Dera since last June and the results of early tests in mice are encouraging.

Cortecs reported half-year results that showed sharply higher research and development spending of £4.6 million (£2.5 million). The company hopes shortly to be able to file for European approval of Macritonin, its capsule form of calcitonin, the treatment for osteoporosis, the brittle bone disease. Results from phase two/three trials on 228 patients should be released in early April.

Revenues in the six months to end December fell to £4 million, mainly due to lower licensing payments. The half-year loss rose from £1.6 million to £4.3 million. After raising £46 million last year, it still has cash of just over £50 million.

BP sees big leap in oil and gas output

By Carl Mortished

BRITISH PETROLEUM has forecast a dramatic boost in oil and gas production, with output expected to rise by one million barrels per day within the next decade.

City analysts were yesterday told that BP would meet its profit target a year ahead of schedule. Last year, BP said that underlying earnings would rise by $1.5 billion by the end of the decade. John Browne, chief executive, said that the goal was steady expansion aimed at sustainable growth of around 10 per cent a year.

The oil company had forecast 5 per cent annual growth in oil and gas production until 2000. But BP is now confident that it can maintain a 5 per cent rate of growth in output over the next ten years to 2.5 million barrels per day.

The additional output will come from developments in Colombia and Venezuela as well as existing provinces in the North Sea and Alaska. Gains from increased output and lower costs will benefit BP by at least another $300 million in the current year.

BP expects to spend $5.7 billion on developments this year, with $1.5 billion on projects that will generate income before 2000.

The Avis Europe Share Offer deadline for applications is 5pm Friday 21st March

There is still time to apply. Buy shares in the Avis Europe Share Offer and you could receive discounts and benefits on Avis car rental. Completed application forms must be returned by 5pm on Friday 21st March. To apply, contact your stockbroker or call one of the following share shops:

Skipton Share Dealing Services.............0800 1380800
City Deal Services.............0800 437437
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AVIS
Share Offer
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STOCK MARKET

CLARE STEWART

Hanson stays in the top 100 as Argos drops out

HANSON breathed a sigh of relief last night as it held on to its place in the FT-SE 100, despite sinking near the bottom of the listing after its demerger moves.

After the quarterly meeting to assess company ratings for the important FT-SE 100 membership, Argos was put on the relegation list while British Land, as expected, won promotion.

Compass, which had been tipped to replace Hanson, remains on the reserve list, while it was confirmed that the Halifax Building Society will not automatically join the top 100 when it floats around early June. Instead it is likely to make its FT-SE 100 debut on June 23.

On a busy day for company results in the City, with the added distraction of results from Cheltenham, the market going was firm to heavy. A renewed call for a rise in interest rates from the Bank of England unsettled the market in the morning before Wall Street's opening set the tone.

A wave of profit-taking saw shares settle lower across the board. By the close the FT-SE 100 was 21.8 points lower at 4,422.5, with around 850 million shares changing hands.

Sterling fell back against the dollar and mark on talk of its being overvalued. By the close the pound was trading around DM2.71 and at $1.59.

Its retreat will have brought some comfort to **Reed International**, the publishing company, which together with reporting an 11 per cent rise in pre-tax profits warned the market that the continuing strength of the pound would hit current profits. Its shares fell 17p to £11.56½ as analysts trimmed profit forecasts to around £870 million.

Tobacco stocks blew smoke in the face of National No Smoking Day. **BAT** was in demand and put on 7p to 564½p, while **Imperial Tobacco** followed suit with an 8½p rise to 434½p.

Cadbury Schweppes was tempting buyers. The shares added 14½p to 555p to reach its best level this year, as the City anticipated positive reaction in the US to Cadbury's presentation to analysts.

Pizza Express was a hot favourite and saw its shares shoot 24p higher to 657½p, another high. Last month's strong results, the promise of expansion plans and the extra topping of bid speculation given the hearty appetite of brewers and leisure groups for restaurant chains, are combining to keep the shares ready to go.

Sir Christopher Lewinton of TI Group, which rose 12p

Iceland Group was cheered to a 12½p rise to a peak of 99½p, after announcing plans to buy back over one third of its ordinary and preference shares. The details came with news of a 23 per cent drop in pre-tax profits at the group, which plans to expand from its high street base with a home delivery service.

Supermarkets were back in the running as analysts digested new research on the sector. **Sainsbury** was the chief beneficiary, moving up 5p to 315p, while **Asda** added 1¼p to 111¼p. **Kwik Save** dipped a penny to 294p after the disclosure that PDFM, the pension fund manager, had topped up its stake to 20.25 per cent.

TI Group, under Sir Christopher Lewinton, chairman and chief executive, led the FT-SE 100 for much of the day after shares responded to strong results with a 12p rise to 576p. Pre-tax profits of £232.2 million, up by 26 per cent, came in at the top end of forecasts and analysts have upgraded expectations for the current year to over £240 million. **Smiths Industries** put on 4½p to 814½p in the wake of TI's upbeat news.

Rentokil Initial, the pot plants to pest control group, failed to impress, and shares fell 42½p to 415½p after reporting a 48 per cent rise in pre-tax profits.

EMI Group climbed 11p higher to £12.36, taking its rise this week to 63p. The success of the ubiquitous Spice Girls and a recent broker's recommendation are credited with fuelling the rise.

Among pharmaceuticals ***Scotia Holdings*** gave up further ground, falling 30p to 405p, after its failure to win approval for a new diabetes drug. **British Biotech** moved up 5p to 262½p on talk of dealers switching over from Scotia.

Shield Diagnostics was hotly pursued once again, rising 62½p to 717½p, while **Glaxo Wellcome** slid back on profit-taking to end 14½p lower at £11.39½. Shares in **Cortecs** moved up 5p to 230½p after announcing interim figures, while **Zeneca** fell back 23p to £18.37.

Yorkshire-Tyne Tees continued to power ahead, adding 32½p to £12.80 after Tuesday's results and renewed talk of Granada's bid interest.

Shares in **Telewest Communications**, the cable group, dipped 2½p to 118p after announcing a pre-tax loss in line with forecasts, while **BSkyB** fell 1p to 632p after 1.1 per cent of its share capital was placed by three shareholders, Granada, Pearson and Pathe.

N Brown, the mail order group, fell back 7p to 381½p on talk of its interest in the Freemans operation.

BP rallied before slipping back to close 8p lower at 702½p. **Enterprise Oil**, due to report today, attracted interest and moved up 10½p to 633½p.

Lively trading in **BA** is expected this morning after news last night that USAir has widened its lawsuit against the airline to claim an alleged breach of fiduciary duty by BA's representatives on the USAir board. BA shares ended at 654½p down 8½p.

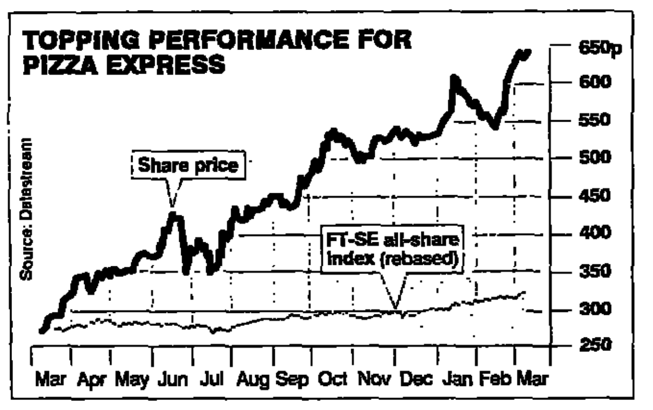
☐ **GILT-EDGED:** The market sagged, partly in response to sterling's fall, underperforming other European bonds and reacting little to UK industrial production figures.

In futures the June series of the long gilt ended £$\frac{10}{32}$ lower at £111$\frac{15}{32}$ on volumes of 57,000 little changed from Tuesday. Treasury 8% 2000 ended off £⅛ at £103$\frac{25}{32}$, while Treasury 8% 2015 closed down £½ at £105$\frac{1}{16}$.

☐ ***NEW YORK:*** Shares were lower at midday as investors once again fretted about interest rates and upcoming inflation data. The Dow was 12.70 points lower at 7,072.46.

Among the household names reporting today, United Biscuits is expected to show a profits recovery to £109 million. Its shares closed 4½p lower last night at 237½p. Reckitt & Colman, also reporting today, closed at 789p, down 8½p. NatWest Securities, the broker, is looking for an 11 per cent rise in profits to £317 million.

TOPPING PERFORMANCE FOR PIZZA EXPRESS



Source: Datastream

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 7072.46 (-12.70)
S&P Composite 808.12 (-3.22)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 18183.27 (-84.45)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 13119.13 (-133.07)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 759.41 (-14.79)

Sydney:
AO 2454.4 (-13.9)

Frankfurt:
DAX 3415.40 (-45.19)

Singapore:
Straits 2177.71 (-17.36)

Brussels:
General 12295.74 (-62.29)

Paris:
CAC-40 2641.70 (-44.45)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 969.90 (-1.60)

London:
FT 30 2922.6 (-5.3)
FT 100 4422.5 (-21.8)
FTSE Mid 250 4725.1 (-4.3)
FTSE 350 2185.4 (-8.9)
FTSE Eurotrack 100 2204.47 (-27.46)
FT All-Share 2156.05 (-7.89)
FT Non Financials 2207.07 (-7.66)
FT Fixed Interest 119.43 (-0.29)
FT Govt Secs 95.50 (-0.27)
Bargains 56304
SEAQ Volume 929.0m
US$ 1.5930 (-0.0125)
German Mark 2.7105 (-0.0274)
Exchange Index 96.8 (-0.8)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU 1.3911
£:SDR 1.1661
RPI 154.4 Jan (2.8%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX 153.9 Jan (3.1%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Anglo-Welsh	103½	...
Aortech	122½	...
Birmingham City	53½	...
C&B Publishing	175	...
Calidore Warrants	1	...
Cambridge Mini Res	13½	- ¼
Centrica (75½)	62½	- 1¼
Core Group	328	- 1
Dobbies Grdn Ctrs	260	+ 5
Energy Group (525)	521½	- 9
Girovend Csh Sys	188½	...
Howle	30½	...
Infobank Intl	176½	...
Nord Anglo Edctn	160½	- 4
Psd Group	260	- 20½
Screen	5¼	- ¼
TR Euro Gwth Wrts	60½	- ½
Technoplast	113½	...
Usher of Trowbridge	123½	...
VFG	41½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Grantchester n/p	37½	+ 10
PTS n/p (100)	22½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Norbain 274p (+40p)
Iceland Gp 99½p (+12p)
Haden Macln 124p (+13½p)
Brent Chems 112p (+9½p)
Jarvis 220p (+15½p)
Huntigh Tech 205p (+17p)
Acorn Comp 230½p (+16p)
PizzaExpress 657½p (+24p)
Therp Anh Inc 383p (+11½p)
Cadbury-Schw 555p (+14½p)

FALLS:
Scotia 405p (-30p)
Blacks Leis 417p (-12p)
Adam & Harvey 332½p (-10p)
RMC Group 989p (-29½p)
Argent 459p (-12p)
Vodafone 285p (-7p)
Wolseley 501½p (-10p)
Dixons Gp 514½p (-9p)
Man Utd 630p (-10p)
Gen Accident 841½p (-13p)
Ryl Bk Scot 576p (-8½p)

Closing Prices Page 29

TEMPUS

Banking on fund managers

A GREAT fund manager carrying a merchant bank on its back. Not quite fair as a description of Schroders, but, in investment terms, shareholders would do better without the overcapitalised bank. Schroder Investment Management goes from strength to strength, with operating profits rising by almost a third. Money is being pumped into SIM to good effect: most of the increase in funds under management is new business, and the retail side continues to win performance awards.

The problem is investment banking. Schroders arrived at a crossroads a year ago: it could remain a "boutique" merchant bank, advising clients in the old-fashioned way, or become an integrated investment bank, offering both advice and the ability to sell shares. Unfortunately, Schroders took the latter path. The costs of turning a perfectly good bank into something flash with global pretensions and overheads are now becoming apparent. Administrative expenses grew more quickly than operating income last year, leaving the pre-tax line flat. Fortunately, a few tax-driven leasing deals boosted the earnings line, avoiding the embarrassment of nil growth from banking during a bull market.

The banking business almost justifies its existence, earning a 12 per cent post-tax return on equity, a fraction up on Schroders' cost of capital. For investors, however, that is a wholly inadequate return for a volatile business, probably at its cyclical peak. Of course, Schroders' return is no worse than its American peers, but that is no reason for investors to like it. Cheap and cheerful boutique banks can at least afford to make hay while the sun shines.

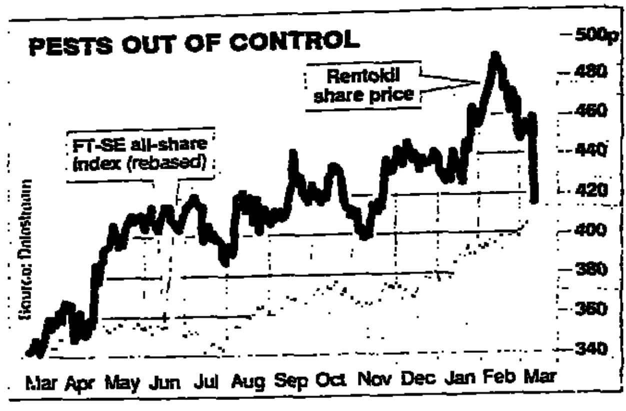
Rentokil Initial

RENTOKIL INITIAL met its 20 per cent earnings growth target but the shares took a pasting anyway. Growth is slowing at the old Rentokil businesses, which only managed to raise profits by 9 per cent to £233.4 million. Last year's acquisition of BET came to the rescue, appearing to confirm the suspicions of many that the deal was driven by targets, not business logic.

Smooth-talking Sir Clive Thompson, the chief executive, reckons the Rentokil slowdown is only a temporary hiccup, which he blamed on a combination of lack of work in UK pest control, exchange-rate costs, and the management time spent on BET.

The concern is that the group will have to rely on accounting wheezes to meet its earnings target. Yesterday's figures included a sweeping £260 million writedown of BET's net assets. A reduced depreciation charge and property costs will only give a "small" boost to profits, £11 million in a full year. The worry is that such actions are dictated more by the albatross of the group's very public earnings target than the needs of the business. While Sir Clive is confident about doubling BET's margins over the next two or three years, there seems no very obvious reason why changing the towels in the world's washrooms should continue to deliver high growth in a low inflation economy. Investors will find safer bets elsewhere.

PESTS OUT OF CONTROL



Source: Datastream

Reed Elsevier

REED ELSEVIER is certain that its future is electronic. Print will continue to be the mainstay of the group's earnings into the next century but it is clear that growth will tend to come in the future from its online information services.

Reed has already established a strong position in the electronic media market with the $1.4 billion acquisition of Lexis-Nexis. The legal and business information database provides the vital platform for supplying online information and already has 40 per cent of the US online business market and 50 per cent of the online legal market. Reed is now seeking to expand the service, developing projects such as the $30 million launch of ScienceDirect aimed at new customers. As the electronic publishing market matures, success will depend on scale and the bit-part players will find themselves squeezed out. Reed seems to have achieved the necessary critical mass — it will now need to work hard on expanding the range of data it provides if it is to cement its position as a potential market leader.

In the short term, however, Reed's outlook is distinctly dull. Some flimsy bid speculation has taken the shares 10 per cent higher in recent weeks. But the extra costs of expanding its electronic businesses and the soaring pound will hold back profits at its Reed International arm to single digits this year. In the long term, however, Reed could well have stolen a lead in the publishing market of the future.

Barclays

THERE is a delicious irony in the long drawn-out sale by Barclays Bank of the assets of Imry Holdings. Property lending was the bank's Achilles' heel during the recession and its support for the buyout of Imry was a classic case of bullish lending followed by crashing property values. Of course, Barclays is a more cautious beast today and a number of ambitious developers are fascinated by Imry's assets, in particular the West Quay shopping centre project in Southampton.

This should be the bank's revenge on its critics. Indeed, the Shires shopping centre in Leicester has been picked up by Rodamco, the Dutch fund, for a mooted figure of £165 million. Even in today's market an initial yield of just over 5 per cent feels hot.

But if Barclays is to show a return for its patience with Imry, it will come from selling the West Quay project at a premium price and that is proving difficult. Two investors pulled out, unwilling to pay the high price demanded. Could it be that today's developers are more cautious than the ones Barclays backed to the hilt in the last property boom.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	993 BID	May	1050-1048
May	1009-1008	Jul	1061 SLR
Jul	1016-1015	Sep	1075-1073
Sep	1020-1018	Dec	1088-1085
Dec	1020-1018		
Mar	1038-1036		Volume: 9530

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	1750 BID	Nov	1702-1700
May	1737-1734	Jan	unq
Jul	1734-1732	Mar	1670 BID
Sep	1735 SLR		Volume: 4572

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	300.3-99.8
Spot: 310.0		Mar	301.6-01.0
May	305.8-05.7	May	301.8-99.3
Aug	304.6-04.2	Jun	unq
Oct	300.3-99.8		Volume: 1014

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 11

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	83.99	163.63	98.36
(+/-)	+0.60	-10.18	+0.18
Eng/Wales:	84.68	152.15	97.32
(+/-)	+0.40	+6.26	+0.32
(%)	-24.0	-11.0	-19.0
Scotland	79.18	147.21	101.86
(+/-)	+3.25	+4.55	-0.25
(%)	-7.0	-6.0	-19.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	19.10	+0.45
Brent 15 day (Apr)	19.50	+0.50
Brent 15 day (May)	19.30	+0.35
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	20.55	+0.35
W Texas Intermediate (May)	20.60	+0.30

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	205 (-2)	207 (-2)
Gasoil EEC	167 (+3)	169 (+4)
3.5 Fuel Oil	79 (n/c)	81 (n/c)
Naphtha	192 (+2)	196 (-1)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Apr	167.25-67.50	Jul	171.25-71.75
May	168.50-68.75	Aug	171.75-73.00
Jun	169.75-70.00		Vol: 20874

BRENT (6.00pm)

Apr	19.43-19.47	Jul	n/a
May	19.21 BID	Aug	19.11-19.14
Jun	19.16 BID		Vol: 61248

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)

Mar	96.80
May	98.90
Jul	101.25
Sep	93.00
Nov	94.85
	Volume: 562

LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)

Mar	89.50
May	90.25
Sep	90.75
Nov	92.75
Jan	94.75
	Volume: 44

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Apr	52.0	51.5
May	57.0	57.5
Jun	unq	69.0
		Volume: 117

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Apr 82.25-82.75

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Mar 97	1525	1515	1520
Apr 97	1620	1610	1620
May 97	1585	1580	1585
Jul 97	1345	1330	1340
Vol: 181 lots		Open interest: 2994	

Index 1454 +9

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2402.0-2403.0	2350.0-2351.0	1115400
Lead ($/tonne)	691.00-692.00	692.00-692.50	214250
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1249.0-1250.0	1268.0-1269.0	660050
Tin ($/tonne)	6005.0-6015.0	6010.0-6015.0	57925
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1645.0-1645.5	1675.0-1675.5	1368000
Nickel ($/tonne)	7920.0-7925.0	8025.0-8030.0	97716

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Alld Dom	420	30	37½	45	4	14	18
(*444½)	460	7½	16½	26	21½	35	39
ASDA	110	5	8½	10	2½	5½	8
(*111½)	120	1	4	6	9	11	12½
Boots	650	33	47½	53½	6½	19	24½
(*674½)	700	7½	20	28½	30	45	51
Br Airways	650	22	38	49	15	29½	35½
(*655)	700	5	18	28	47½	60	65½
BP	700	23	40½	52	16	30	38
(*702½)	750	5	19	30	49½	59½	66½
Br Steel	140	19	22	22	0½	4	5½
(*158)	160	4	9	10	6	13	15
C & W	500	21	36	46½	12½	25	33
(*507)	550	4	15½	25½	44½	55½	62
CU	700	31	60½	71½	20½	46	60½
(*702½)	750	12½	39½	53	52½	74	89
ICI	700	49	68	76½	4	11½	20½
(*741½)	750	17	37	47	20	30½	42
Land Sec	750	43	54	60	2½	15	20
(*784½)	800	11	23	32½	30½	40½	45
M & S	460	27½	35	43½	4½	13	15
(*481½)	500	6	13½	24	23	33	35½
Nat West	700	51	74	83½	5½	18	28½
(*742½)	750	19	45	56	23	36	51½
Safeway plc	360	14	23	29	8½	19½	24½
(*363)	390	4	10½	17	28½	39	43
Sainsbury	300	20½	25½	31	3½	11½	13½
(*315½)	330	4½	10½	17	17½	27½	30
Shell	1050	45½	57½	73½	20½	36	41½
(*1091½)	1100	18	34½	49½	50½	62	71
SmKl Bch	900	58	82	101	11½	28½	37½
(*943)	950	29	55	74½	31½	51	60
Storehse	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafalgar	50	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	60	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zeneca	1800	66	124	160	45	78½	96
(*1836½)	1900	25	77½	112½	104½	133	149
Series		Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
BAT Ind	550	20	38	49	21	35½	45½
(*563)	600	5	20½	29½	56½	66	76½
Vodafone	280	14	25	31½	8½	16½	20½
(*294½)	300	5½	16	22	19	27½	31½
Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Grnd Met	460	36½	46½	53½	6	13	17
(*485½)	500	14	24½	32½	23½	34	35½
Ladbroke	220	19½	26	29½	3½	6½	9½
(*228)	240	8	14½	18½	12	15½	18½
Utd Bisc	220	19½	24½	31	5½	9	13
(*237½)	240	7	14½	20	15½	19	23½

Series		Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
BAA	500	39	49½	55	2	10½	14
(*534)	550	9	20½	27½	21	33½	36½
Thames W	650	48½	68	71½	7½	28½	31
(*690½)	700	18	40½	45	25½	54½	56
Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BTR	260	18	24½	29	7	10½	13½
(*276½)	280	7	15	19	16	20	23½
Br Aero	1350	67½	105	126½	36½	52½	64½
(*1365½)	1400	43½	78½	100	62½	76½	89
Br Telcm	420	26½	36	39½	7½	18½	22½
(*434½)	460	8½	17	19½	29	43½	46
Cadbury	500	54½	63	67½	4½	10½	13½
(*554)	550	20½	33½	39	22½	29½	33½
Guinness	460	23	34	40	13	20	22
(*476)	500	7½	16	22	38½	43½	45
GEC	360	32½	39	43	4	11½	14½
(*384)	390	14	21½	26½	15	26	29
Hanson	300	17½	25	29½	10	13	17
(*305)	330	5½	11½	16	28	30	33½
LASMO	220	23	30½	33½	5½	7½	8½
(*235½)	240	13	20	23	13	15½	17½
LucasVarity	200	13½	19½	23	8	10½	14½
(*205)	220	5	11	14½	19½	22	26
Pilkingtn	140	13	18	—	4½	8	—
(*146½)	160	5	9	—	16	20	—
Prudential	550	44	57½	66½	11½	19	26
(*590)	600	18½	31½	41½	39½	43	50
Redland	360	21	29	36½	17½	25½	28
(*367½)	390	8	16½	24½	38	44	46
R-Royce	240	18½	26½	30½	9½	15	17
(*249)	260	9	17½	21½	20½	25½	27½
Tesco	330	25	31	36½	8	12	16½
(*348)	360	8½	16½	22½	23½	28	32
Williams	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*4420½)

	4300	4350	4400	4450	4500	4550
Calls						
Mar	120½	76	36	12½	2½	1
Apr	145½	108	77	51	30	15½
May	169	135	103½	77	53½	37½
Jun	201	166½	133	106½	82½	61½
Dec	317	—	252½	—	302½	—
Puts						
Mar	6	13½	28	57	99	149
Apr	33	46	65	90	121	158
May	57	73	91	115	142	170½
Jun	73	90	107½	132	158	188½
Dec	141½	—	178½	—	225½	—

Series		Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Abby Nat	750	44	69½	83	9	24½	34
(*781)	800	16	42	56	31	47½	57
Amstrad	140	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barclays	1100	39	75½	93	18	37	55½
(*1115½)	1150	16½	50	67½	45	62½	80½
Natl Pwr	450	47	—	—	3	—	—
(*493½)	500	12½	32	32½	17½	36	44½
Series		Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Glaxo W	1100	43½	76½	94½	21½	43	61½
(*1139)	1150	19½	51	69½	49	68½	87
HSBC	1500	99½	145	172½	17	48	73½
(*1597)	1600	34	90½	119½	61½	93½	119½
Reuter	600	46	64½	73½	7½	17½	23
(*643½)	650	15½	36½	47	28½	39½	45½
Royal & Sun	460	39	40	56	4½	13½	20½
(*490½)	500	9	24½	35	23	32	39½
Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Blue Circ	390	24	32	37½	13	18	23½
(*404½)	420	9	18	24	30½	35	40
Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Kingfishr	650	47	59	69	12½	22	27½
(*687)	700	18	32½	43	39	45½	51½
Series		Mar	Jun		Mar	Jun	
Br Gas	220	10½	17½	—	1½	13	—
(*229½)	240	2	7½	—	11½	24½	—
Series		Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Dixons	500	18	39	48½	2½	16½	27
(*515)	550	0½	16½	25½	35	44	54
EMI Group	1200	42	88½	113½	4½	34½	56
(*1236)	1250	14	62½	86	25	57	77½
Tarmac	100	4	8	11	1	5½	6
(*103)	110	0½	3½	7	7½	11½	12
Hillsdwn	180	10½	13	15	0½	7	8½
(*190)	200	0½	3½	6	10½	21	21½
Lonrho	140	8½	14	17	1	5	7
(*148)	160	0	5	8	12½	15½	18
Sears	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn EMI	1500	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	1600	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomkins	280	10	21½	26	1	8½	15
(*289)	300	1	11	16	11½	18½	25
Lloyds TSB	500	20½	41	51½	1½	15	23
(*519)	550	0	17	27½	31½	41½	49
Scot Pwr	360	5½	20½	36½	3½	14	21½
(*361½)	390	0	8½	13½	28½	32	40½
Unilever	1500	100½	116½	144	0	20½	32
(*1598½)	1600	17	54½	87	18	60	73

March 12, 1997 Tot: 45297 Call: 21062 Put: 24235 FTSE Call: 7572 Put: 2649
*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Mar 97	112-06	112-08	111-28	111-30	1192
Previous open interest: 203951	Jun 97	111-21	111-26	111-11	111-15	55239
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Jun 97	101.81	101.92	101.63	101.78	135124
Previous open interest: 237496	Sep 97	101.00	101.00	100.90	100.91	20
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Jun 97	126.62	126.80	125.60	125.78	69250
Previous open interest: 105729	Sep 97	126.50	126.52	126.50	125.73	125
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Jun 97	125.77	125.82	125.72	125.81	1046
	Sep 97	124.38	124.38	124.38	124.43	25
Three Mth Sterling	Mar 97	93.75	93.76	93.75	93.75	9838
	Jun 97	93.60	93.64	93.57	93.57	18028
Previous open interest: 541261	Sep 97	93.42	93.46	93.37	93.37	21971
Three Mth Euromark	Mar 97	96.72	96.74	96.72	96.73	6782
Previous open interest: 1303869	Jun 97	96.72	96.73	96.71	96.73	17443
Three Mth Eurolira	Mar 97	92.67	92.68	92.59	92.61	10994
Previous open interest: 280683	Jun 97	93.05	93.05	92.93	92.96	29151
Three Mth Euroyen	Jun 97	99.42	99.42	99.42	99.41	3000
	Sep 97	99.32	99.32	99.32	99.31	500
Three Mth Euroswiss	Mar 97	98.08	98.08	98.01	98.07	3333
Previous open interest: 107299	Jun 97	98.09	98.12	98.04	98.11	13126
Three Mth ECU	Mar 97	95.72	95.74	95.72	95.73	949
Previous open interest: 34735	Jun 97	95.73	95.75	95.72	95.73	1095
FTSE 100	Mar 97	4417.0	4430.0	4401.0	4406.0	14711
Previous open interest: 75252	Jun 97	4438.0	4450.0	4425.0	4427.5	4514

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6 Low 5¾ Week fixed: 5¾
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5$\frac{11}{16}$; 3 mth 5⅝ . Sell: 2 mth 5$\frac{11}{16}$; 3 mth: 5⅝ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5$\frac{11}{16}$-5⅝	5¾-5$\frac{11}{16}$	6$\frac{1}{16}$-5$\frac{15}{16}$	6¼-6⅛	
Sterling Money Rates:	6$\frac{1}{32}$-5$\frac{29}{32}$	6$\frac{1}{16}$-6$\frac{1}{16}$	6$\frac{3}{16}$-6$\frac{1}{16}$	6$\frac{7}{16}$-6$\frac{5}{16}$	6¾-6⅝
Interbank:	6$\frac{1}{32}$-5$\frac{29}{32}$	6$\frac{3}{32}$-6$\frac{1}{32}$	6$\frac{3}{16}$-6$\frac{1}{16}$	6$\frac{7}{16}$-6$\frac{5}{16}$	6¾-6⅝

Overnight: open 5$\frac{15}{16}$, close 6 .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	5$\frac{15}{16}$	n/a	6$\frac{1}{16}$	6⅜	6¾
Sterling CDs:	6-5$\frac{15}{16}$	6$\frac{1}{32}$-6$\frac{1}{32}$	6$\frac{1}{16}$-6$\frac{1}{16}$	6$\frac{7}{16}$-6$\frac{5}{16}$	6$\frac{13}{16}$-6$\frac{11}{16}$
Dollar CDs:	5.34	n/a	5.44	5.60	5.92
Building Society CDs:	6$\frac{1}{16}$-6	6$\frac{1}{16}$-6$\frac{1}{32}$	6$\frac{3}{16}$-6$\frac{1}{16}$	6$\frac{7}{16}$-6$\frac{5}{16}$	6$\frac{13}{16}$-6$\frac{11}{16}$

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5$\frac{5}{16}$-4$\frac{15}{16}$	5¼-5⅛	5$\frac{5}{16}$-5$\frac{3}{16}$	5$\frac{9}{16}$-5$\frac{7}{16}$	5-4
Deutschemark:	3⅛-2⅞	3¼-3⅛	3¼-3⅛	3⅜-3¼	3¼-2¾
French Franc:	3⅛-3	3$\frac{3}{16}$-3$\frac{1}{16}$	3$\frac{5}{16}$-3$\frac{3}{16}$	3$\frac{7}{16}$-3$\frac{5}{16}$	3¼-2¾
Swiss Franc:	2-1¾	2-1$\frac{13}{16}$	1⅞-1¾	1⅞-1¾	2¼-1¾
Yen:	$\frac{9}{16}$-$\frac{7}{16}$	½-⅜	$\frac{9}{16}$-$\frac{7}{16}$	$\frac{9}{16}$-$\frac{7}{16}$	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $353.75-354.05 **Close:** $352.50-353.00 **High:** $353.75-354.05
Low: $350.15-350.65 **AM:** $353.15 **PM:** $351.40

Krugerrand: $351.75-354.75 (£220.75-222.75)

Platinum: $380.50 (£239.10) **Silver:** $5.26 (£3.295) **Palladium:** $151.50 (£95.25)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for March 12	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.0493-3.0652	3.0493-3.0520	¼-⅛pr	2⅝-2⅛pr
Brussels	55.864-56.210	55.864-55.963	14-9pr	41-34pr
Copenhagen	10.339-10.390	10.339-10.349	⅛-⅛pr	⅝-¼pr
Dublin	1.0228-1.0275	1.0234-1.0254	5-1pr	15-9pr
Frankfurt	2.7088-2.7239	2.7088-2.7117	⅝-½pr	2-1¾pr
Lisbon	271.68-273.30	271.68-272.01	¼-¼ds	¼-¼ds
Madrid	229.76-230.98	229.76-229.98	6-4pr	26-8pr
Milan	2701.2-2713.2	2701.2-2703.8	24-40ds	72-94ds
Montreal	2.1721-2.1800	2.1726-2.1748	0.59-0.53pr	1.13-1.05pr
New York	1.5906-1.5940	1.5925-1.5935	0.925-0.725pr	0.265-0.235pr
Oslo	10.832-10.875	10.832-10.842	⅛-⅛pr	⅛-⅛pr
Paris	9.1413-9.1860	9.1413-9.1499	2½-2pr	6⅝-6⅛pr
Stockholm	12.201-12.265	12.226-12.246	⅛-⅛pr	⅛-⅛pr
Tokyo	195.20-195.59	195.20-195.49	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-2⅛pr
Vienna	19.063-19.171	19.063-19.084	⅛-⅛pr	1⅛-1⅛pr
Zurich	2.3338-2.3534	2.3336-2.3369	⅝-⅛pr	2⅝-2⅛pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2584-1.2794
Austria	11.95-11.99
Belgium (Com)	35.13-35.17
Canada	1.3654-1.3659
Denmark	6.4995-6.5015
France	5.7465-5.7455
Germany	1.7037-1.7042
Hong Kong	7.7428-7.7438
Ireland	1.5510-1.5520
Italy	1695.50-1697.00
Japan	122.58-122.63
Malaysia	2.4757-2.4764
Netherlands	1.9172-1.9177
Norway	6.8040-6.8090
Portugal	170.92-171.03
Singapore	1.4335-1.4342
Spain	144.47-144.52
Sweden	7.6758-7.6633
Switzerland	1.4695-1.4705

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5942-1.5956
Australia dollar	2.0035-2.0057
Bahrain dinar	0.5985-0.6105
Brazil real*	1.6780-1.6825
China yuan	13.136-13.436
Cyprus pound	0.8120-0.8220
Finland markka	8.1300-8.2460
Greece drachma	427.75-434.75
Hong Kong dollar	12.3265-12.3336
India rupee	57.01-57.97
Indonesia rupiah	3812.0-3880.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4815-0.4915
Malaysia ringgit	3.9426-3.9449
New Zealand dollar	2.2579-2.2609
Pakistan rupee	63.75 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.7750-5.8000
Singapore dollar	2.2826-2.2847
S Africa rand (com)	7.0820-7.1840
U A E dirham	5.8250-5.9490

Barclays Bank GTS * *Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	470	*Land Secs*	1,300
ASDA Gp	10,200	Legal & Gn	2,100
Abbey Ntl	1,900	Lloyds TSB	9,200
Allied Dom	706	LucasVarity	10,100
Argos	529	Marks Spr	5,000
AB Foods	233	*Mercury Asset*	493
BAA	781	NatWst Bk	4,600
BAT Inds	36,000	Nat Grid	7,300
BG	23,900	Nat Power	2,100
BOC	1,600	Next	715
BP	*10,400*	*Orange*	*3,100*
BSkyB	37,800	P & O	2,200
BTR	19,300	Pearson	293
BT	14,500	PowerGen	2,300
Bk of Scot	3,700	Prudential	2,800
Barclays	3,000	RMC	600
Bass	1,300	RTZ	3,500
Blue Circle	1,600	Railtrack	4,200
Boots	2,100	Rank Group	3,100
BAe	2,000	Reckitt Col	751
BA	1,700	*Reed Intl*	*2,000*
Brit Steel	16,700	Rentokil	25,800
Burmah Cstl	790	Reuters	6,100
Burton	2,000	Rolls Royce	2,600
Cable Wire	1,500	Royal & Sun	5,200
Cadbury	*7,300*	*Royal Bk Sct*	*1,700*
Carlton Cms	1,400	Safeway	4,500
Centrica	22,600	Sainsbury	5,200
Cm Union	950	Schroders	681
Dixons	1,800	Scot & New	1,000
EMI	*943*	*Scot Power*	*829*
Energy Gp	1,600	Svrn Trent	691
Enterpr Oil	1,300	Shell Trans	4,200
GKN	1,500	Siebe	1,500
GRE	4,200	SmKl Bch	2,300
GUS	526	Smith Nph	4,300
Gen Acc	836	Smiths Inds	2,600
Gen Elec	3,900	Std Chard	1,200
Glaxo Well	6,900	TI Gp	2,700
Granada	*2,100*	Tate & Lyle	580
Grand Met	3,400	Tesco	5,800
Guinness	3,300	Thames W	1,200
HSBC	1,000	Tomkins	5,300
Hanson	2,500	Unilever	832
Hays	*1,300*	*Utd Utilities*	*1,400*
ICI	2,400	Utd News	3,300
Imp Tob	3,400	Vodafone	24,800
Kingfisher	1,300	Whitbread	689
LASMO	3,000	Wolseley	1,000
Ludbroke	5,100	Zeneca	2,000

WALL STREET

	Mar 12 *midday*	Mar 11 *close*
AMP Inc	38¼	38¼
AMR Corp	84¼	84¼
ASA	36¼	36¼
AT & T	36¼	36¼
Abbott Labs	59¼	59¼
Advanced Micro	44¼	41¼
Aetna Life	92¼	92¼
Ahmanson (HF)	41¼	41¼
Air Prod & Chem	74¼	74¼
AirTouch Comm	26¼	26
Alberto-Culver B	28¼	28¼
Albertson's	35¼	35¼
Alcan Alumnm	38	38
Allied Signal	74¼	74¼
Alum Co of Am	74¼	75¼
Amax Gold Inc	7¼	7¼
Amerada Hess	53¼	53¼
Amer Brands	52¼	52¼
Amer El Power	40¼	41
Amer Express	66¼	66¼
Amer Genl Corp	44	43¼
Amer Home Pr	66¼	68
Amer Intl	129¼	126¼
Amer Stores	44¼	44¼
Amer Standard	47	47¼
Ameritech	62¼	62¼
Amoco	88	89¼
Anheuser-Busch	44¼	43¼
Apple Computer	16¼	16¼
Archer Daniels	18¼	18¼
Armco	5¼	5¼
Armstrng Wrld	71¼	71¼
Asarco	32¼	32¼
Atl Richfield	126¼	126¼
Auto Data Prn	44¼	44¼
Avery Dennison	41¼	42¼
Avon Products	61	62¼
Baker Hughes	38¼	39
Baltim Gas & El	26¼	26¼
Banc One	47¼	47¼
BankAmerica	118¼	119¼
Bank of NY	41¼	41¼
Bankers Tr NY	94¼	94¼
Barnett Banks	49¼	49¼
Bausch & Lomb	37¼	38¼
Baxter Intl	47¼	48¼
Becton Dicknsn	48	48¼
Bell Atlantic	66¼	67¼
Bell Industries	21¼	22
BellSouth	44¼	44¼
Black & Decker	33	31
Block (H&R)	30¼	30¼
Boeing	107¼	108¼
Boise Cascade	33¼	33¼
Bristol Myrs Sq	67¼	67¼
Browning Ferris	31¼	31¼
Brunswick	29¼	28¼
Burlington Nthn	84¼	84¼
CMS Energy Corp	32¼	32¼
CNA Financial	114	114
CPC Intl	85¼	85¼
CSX	51¼	52
Campbell Soup	91¼	92¼
Can Pacific	25¼	26
Carolina Pwr	36¼	36¼
Caterpillar	80¼	80¼
Central & SW	23¼	23¼
Champion Intl	43¼	44
Chase Manhat	105¼	106¼
Chevron Corp	67¼	67¼
Chrysler	31¼	31¼
Chubb Corp	61¼	62¼
Cigna Corp	158¼	159¼
Citicorp	123¼	124¼
Clorox	124¼	124¼
Coastal Corp	48¼	48¼
Coca Cola	61¼	62¼
Coca Cola Ent	62¼	63¼
Colgate-Palm	110¼	112¼
Columbia Gas	60¼	60¼
ColumbiaHCA	44¼	43¼
Compaq Comp	79¼	79¼
Comp Ass Intl	40	40¼
Conagra	55¼	55
Conrail	112¼	112¼
Cons Edison	29¼	29¼
Cons Nat Gas	53¼	53
Cooper Inds	46¼	46¼
Corestates	54	54¼
Corning Inc	45¼	45¼
Crown Cork	50¼	50¼
Dana Corp	31¼	31¼
Dayton Hudson	42¼	42¼
Deere	44¼	43¼
Delta Air Lines	85¼	85¼
Deluxe Corp	33	33¼
Digital Equip	31	32
Dillard Dept St	31¼	30¼
Disney (Walt)	76¼	77¼
Dominion Res	38¼	38¼
Donnelley (RR)	31	30¼
Dover Corp	53¼	51
Dow Chemical	83	83¼
Dow Jones	44¼	44¼
Dresser	31¼	31
Duke Power	44¼	44¼
Dun & Bradstreet	26¼	26¼
Du Pont	114	115¼
Eastman Chem	56¼	56¼
Eastman Kodak	91¼	91¼

	Mar 12 *midday*	Mar 11 *close*
Eaton Corp	73	72¼
Edison Intl	21¼	21¼
Elect Data Sys	44¼	45¼
Emerson Elec	50¼	50¼
Engelhard Corp	23¼	22¼
Enron Corp	40¼	40¼
Entergy	26	26
Ethyl Corp	9	9
Exxon	101¼	102¼
FMC Corp	66¼	66¼
FPL Group	44¼	45
Federal Express	54¼	54
First Bk Sys	82¼	83¼
First Union Rlty	13¼	13¼
Fleet Finl Grp	62¼	62¼
Fluor Corp	64¼	64¼
Ford Motor	32¼	32¼
GTE Corp	47¼	47¼
Gannett	81¼	82¼
Gap Inc Del	34¼	33¼
Gencorp	19¼	19¼
Gen Dynamics	66¼	66¼
Gen Electric	105¼	105¼
Gen Mills	64¼	64¼
Gen Motors	57¼	57¼
Gen Reinsurance	174	174¼
Gen Signal	39¼	43¼
Genuine Parts	47	47
Georgia Pac	77¼	77¼
Gillette	82	82¼
Glaxo Welle ADR	36¼	36¼
Goodrich (BF)	40¼	41
Goodyear Tire	53¼	53¼
Gt Atl Pac Tea	29¼	29¼
Great Wstn Fin	48¼	48¼
Halliburton	68¼	68¼
Harcourt General	47¼	47¼
Heinz (HJ)	42¼	43¼
Hercules	46¼	46¼
Hershey Foods	48¼	49¼
Hewlett Packard	55¼	55¼
Hilton Hotels	25¼	25¼
Home Depot	56	56¼
Homestake Mng	16¼	16¼
Honeywell	74¼	74¼
Household Intl	99¼	100
Houston Inds	22	22¼
Humana	22¼	23
ITT Corp	58¼	58¼
Ikon Office	39¼	40¼
Illinois Tool	88¼	87¼
Illinova	24¼	24¼
INCO	37¼	37¼
Ingersoll Rand	47¼	47¼
Inland Steel	20¼	20¼
Intel Corp	145	143¼
IBM	146¼	146
Intl Flav & Fr	46¼	46¼
Intl Paper	42¼	42¼
James River Va	34¼	34
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	60¼	60¼
Kellogg	68¼	68¼
Kerr-McGee	64¼	64¼
Kimberly-Clark	110¼	110
Kmart	12¼	12¼
Knight-Ridder	40	40
Lilly (Eli)	87¼	88¼
Limited Inc	19¼	19¼
Lincoln Nat	60¼	60¼
Litton	41¼	41¼
Liz Claiborne	44¼	43¼
Lockheed Martin	85¼	86
Louisiana Pac	21¼	21¼
MCI Comm	36¼	36¼
Manpower Inc	39¼	39¼
Marriott Int	51¼	51¼
Marsh & McLnn	120¼	122
Masco Corp	36¼	37¼
May Dept St	48¼	47¼
Maytag Corp	22¼	22¼
McDonalds	44¼	44¼
McDonnell D	67¼	67¼
McGraw Hill	52¼	52¼
Mead Corp	57¼	57¼
Medtronic	66¼	66¼
Mellon Bk	84¼	85
Merck Inc	93¼	93¼
Merrill Lynch	90¼	90¼
Microsoft	98¼	98¼
Minnesota Mng	91¼	92¼
Mobil Corp	131¼	131¼
Monsanto	40¼	39¼
Morgan (JP)	108¼	108¼
Motorola Inc	57¼	57¼
Natl Semi	29¼	29¼
Natl Service Ind	37¼	38
Navistar Intl	9¼	9¼
NY Times A	44¼	44¼
Newmont Mng	44¼	44¼
Niag Mohawk	9¼	9¼
Nike B	66¼	66¼
NL Industries	10¼	10¼
Noram Energy	15¼	15¼
Nordstrom	38¼	38¼
Norfolk Sthrn	94¼	95¼
Nthn State Pwr	47¼	47¼
Norwest Corp	52¼	52¼
Nynex Corp	50¼	50¼
Occidental Pet	25¼	25¼
Ohio Edison	21¼	21¼

	Mar 12 midday	Mar 11 close
Oracle	35	35¼
Oryx Energy Co	19¼	19¼
Overseas Ship	17¼	17¼
Owens Corning	43¼	43¼
PHH Corp	48¼	48¼
PPG Industries	57	57
PNC Bank	44¼	44¼
PP&L Res	21¼	21¼
Paccar Inc	74¼	75¼
Pacificorp	20¼	20¼
Pac Enterprises	30¼	30¼
Pac Telesis	41¼	41¼
Pall Corp	23	23¼
Parker Hannifin	45¼	45¼
Pecn Energy	21¼	21¼
Penney (JC)	51¼	50¼
Pennzoil	54¼	54¼
Pepsico	32¼	32¼
Pfizer	95¼	95¼
Pharm & Upjhn	39¼	39¼
Phelps Dodge	77¼	78¼
Philip Morris	138¼	139¼
Phillips Pet	40¼	41¼
Pitney Bowes	62¼	63
Polaroid	41¼	43¼
Procter & Grmbl	126¼	126¼
Providian	59¼	60¼
Pub Serv E & G	26¼	26¼
Quaker Oats	37¼	37¼
Ralston Purina	86¼	86¼
Raychem Corp	88	88
Raytheon	48¼	48¼
Reebok Intl	49¼	49¼
Reynolds Metals	64¼	64¼
Rockwell Intl	67¼	67¼
Rohm & Haas	93¼	93¼
Royal Dutch	176¼	177¼
Rubbermaid	23¼	24¼
SBC Comms	57¼	57¼
Safeco Corp	41	41¼
St Paul's Cos	71¼	71¼
Salomon Inc	57¼	57¼
Sara Lee Corp	39¼	39¼
Schering Plough	79¼	80¼
Schlumberger	106¼	107¼
Seagram	39¼	39¼
Sears Roebuck	55¼	55¼
Shell Trans	103¼	103¼
Sherwin Wlms	59¼	58¼
Styline Corp	24¼	24¼
Snap-On-Tools	41	41¼
Southern Co	21¼	21¼
Sprint Corp	44¼	44¼
Stanley Works	39¼	39¼
Sun Company	28	27¼
Sun Microsys	31	31¼
Suntrust	53¼	54
Supervalu	31¼	31¼
Sysco Corp	34¼	34¼
TRW Inc	54¼	54¼
TCC Inds	1¼	1¼
Tandem Comp	12¼	12¼
Tandy Corp	53¼	52¼
Temple Inland	55¼	56
Tenneco	39¼	40¼
Texaco	102¼	102¼
Texas Inst	85¼	85¼
Texas Utilities	36¼	38
Textron	103	103
Time Warner	43	43¼
Times-Mirror A	53¼	54¼
Timken	54¼	54¼
Torchmark	61¼	61¼
Toys R Us	28¼	28¼
Transamerica	89¼	89¼
Travelers	55¼	56¼
Tribune	40¼	40¼
Tyco Intl	61¼	61¼
UST Inc	33¼	34¼
UAL	68¼	68¼
US Inds	38¼	39¼
US West Comm	35¼	35¼
US West Media	19¼	19¼
USAirways Group	25¼	25¼
USX Marathon	27¼	27¼
Unicom	22¼	22¼
Unilever NV	198¼	198¼
Union Camp	50	50¼
Union Carbide	49	49¼
Union Pacific	61¼	61¼
Unisys Corp	6¼	6¼
USF&G Corp	22¼	22¼
US Life	48¼	48¼
United Tech	77¼	77¼
Unocal Corp	39¼	40¼
VF Corp	69¼	69¼
WMX Tech	32¼	32¼
Wal-Mart Stores	27¼	27¼
Warner-Lambert	88¼	87¼
Wells Fargo	318¼	319
Westinghouse El	19	19¼
Weyerhaeuser	47¼	47¼
Whirlpool	49¼	49¼
Whitman	23¼	23¼
Winn Dixie	32¼	32¼
Woolworth	22¼	22¼
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	60¼	60¼
Xerox	62	61¼
Yellow Corp	16¼	16¼

[illegible]

7

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Nadir for Asil's former wife

ASIL NADIR'S ex-wife has come a cropper for apparently buying stolen goods. A Turkish court has sentenced Aysegul Nadir, better known as Tecimer, in her absence to four-and-a-half years in jail for buying a stolen antique Koran, then selling it for $15,000. She apparently only attended the trial's hearing in 1994, and is now believed to be living in Miami.

The former wife of the fugitive tycoon, an expert on Islamic art, was given a ten-month suspended jail sentence last year for illegally hoarding hundreds of antiques in her mansion by the Bosphorus Straits.

The Istanbul socialite twice married and divorced the Turkish Cypriot businessman, who jumped bail and fled from Britain to northern Cyprus in 1993, after the collapse of the London-based Polly Peck business empire.

Negative image

CREST NICHOLSON has decorated its showhouse in this year's Ideal Home Exhibition with particular panache. Complete with TV, vase of flowers, and decorative books, the Surrey-based property developer has included a beguiling family photograph, to add that all-convincing lived-in feeling. The family in question? Nigel Lawson in all his pre-diet splendour, accompanied by his wife and a child. Enough to make the former Chancellor reach for the biscuit tin.

"Mum's gone to Iceland to sell back her shares"

Filial tie

PATRICK SUMNER is the runaway winner of the Henderson Real Estate trophy for tasteless neckwear. The European analyst and brain behind the competition in aid of Comic Relief was awarded the prize for his white polyester number, patterned with red and turquoise diamonds. According to the heartless brute: "I borrowed it from my ten-year-old son. He bought it at a school bring-and-buy sale, and wasn't very happy when I told him the occasion."

FANCY a flight for six to any European city, a football shirt signed by Teddy Sheringham, or a tie signed by the Spice Girls? Cityscreen, the real-time on-screen magazine on the Reuters network, is hosting a live auction between 10am and 4pm today, to raise money for Comic Relief.

Sweet gesture

A CONFECTIONERS in Cheshire has come up with a political sweetener — the Euromint. Manufactured by Sugro UK, to freshen the breath of Europhiles and Eurosceptics alike, 25p packets of "the taste without frontiers" have been sent to MPs, including Michael Portillo, Sir David Steel, and Virginia Bottomley. Touched by the gesture, former chancellor and Euro-sceptic Norman Lamont wrote to the company: "I shall look forward to starting the packet during my next weekend in Harrogate. They deserve to be devoured."

MORAG PRESTON

Beware sweet-talking vultures bearing bribes from the State

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

A well-known life assurance company has had a bright marketing idea. The term pensioner should be scrapped, it suggests, in favour of something more snazzy and interesting. Suggestions are invited. Judging by the tenor of recent public debate, the term parasite may come into vogue. Half a million people who are still waiting to hear if they have been sold the wrong pension might have some other ideas: vulture-fodder perhaps.

As both main parties try to privatise welfare for older people, they plan to put ever more business the way of the long-term insurance industry. After the Pinochet pension, this week we had insuring your house against state seizure. All such schemes seem to involve compulsion, direct subsidies or tax concessions. All agree, it seems, that few would otherwise rush to buy products from life assurers.

No wonder. As MPs at the Treasury Select Committee learnt on Monday, companies and their regulator are not exactly straining to repair the industry's good name. An inquiry into mis-selling of personal pensions, mainly to people who had pensions supported by employers, was started in 1994 at the behest of the Securities and Investments Board. The problem was not quite as disastrous as first feared. But it is bad: 558,000 cases have been identified that show symptoms of possible mis-selling. Of these, nearly 480,000 were deemed priority cases, because the policyholder was already retired, soon to retire or had even died.

The Personal Investment Authority, which took over the job when it was formed, aimed to break the back of work on these cases and, where necessary, have compensation offered by the end of 1995. Twelve months after that deadline, 37,000 cases had been fully assessed, just one in thirteen of those classed as urgent.

Many excuses are given. The original questionnaire was too perfectionist. A court case brought by independent financial advisers, who account for 13 per cent of the cases, delayed their part of the operation by a few months. Occupational pension schemes, especially public sector ones, took ages to supply the information needed to work out any compensation due. They are, however, merely excuses. The PIA itself, which has a duty to vet 42,000 cases from financial advisers that have gone out of business, seems to have been more dilatory than any section of the industry.

Things should speed up. After procedures were simplified last autumn and companies were at last required to submit credible programmes, the PIA hopes that 90 per cent of cases might be dealt by the end of this year. But it is only a hope. Asked publicly by the MPs, the PIA's chairman and chief executive could offer no date when the scandal might finally be dealt with.

So far, the only group to come out of this with any credit are small independent financial advisers, the old-fashioned one-man businesses or small partnerships. By the start of this year, they had at least assessed a quarter of their priority cases, against the 6.7 per cent managed by insurance companies on average and a paltry 2.4 per cent by big national brokers. They have the unfair advantage of knowing their clients and having handled the cases personally. They also did not sell so many policies to the wrong people as the carpet-baggers. Clearly, if you use an adviser, it pays to go for a reputable local professional who is not going to go away.

Unsurprisingly, these small advisers are the only group sat on by PIA bureaucrats. Mis-selling is a cardinal sin under the Financial Services Act, so you might think the industry's failure to purge it would be a hanging offence. Some companies have almost as many cases outstanding as the PIA itself. Yet only 37 fines have been levied, all on advisers, most on small firms who did not fill in the forms properly.

The PIA also rejected the idea of publishing a league table, on legal advice that this would constitute discipline and therefore be open to legal challenge and appeal. There is literally one law for innocent primary schools and another for guilty big-name companies. Such episodes confirm the fear some of us always harboured that the PIA was misconceived. It is an unhappy hybrid between self-policing as envisaged under the Act, and regulation by quango, imposed because the industry could no longer be trusted. The hybrid is still distrusted because its chairman used to run Legal & General, one of the companies at the centre of the scandal. Other top industry people have the influence to stay its hand. Yet its executive lacks the weight for backstairs fixing or the effective brutality industry professionals use to bring their own kind into line. As a quango, the PIA does not lack powers. It can fine, issue public reprimands or take away companies' authority to do investment business, but seems to lack the professional confidence to use these powers. Threats to deregister would clear up most cases pronto. Instead, we get bureaucracy and excuses.

Companies, not their regulator, are to blame for mis-selling, however, and also principally for failing to atone for it. What good marketing it would be for any company or adviser to be able to claim that it had no outstanding cases of mis-selling on its books. Which companies really care what the public thinks?

Professor Jim Gower, mastermind of the 1986 Act, famously argued that the purpose of investor protection was to prevent reasonable people being made fools of, not to protect fools from their own folly. We have to exercise common sense, then hope that the law and its enforcers will ensure fair dealing. We must rely even more on common sense when it does not. Common sense dictates that if you buy any policy from a company that cannot be bothered to investigate its mistakes, repair them and tell you it has done so, you are a fool — however big the state bribe.

Change of pace in the life of O'Reilly

As Heinz prepares to announce a restructuring, **Eileen McCabe** examines the twists and turns in the career of its chairman and chief executive

Rugby brought Tony O'Reilly renown

O'Reilly's performance at Wedgwood impressed even detractors

He is often seen at the races with Chryss Goulandris, his wife

Business success has brought him respect

At the age of 17, Tony O'Reilly was taken aside by one of his priests at his fee-paying college in Dublin and told that he was illegitimate. The Jesuit gently explained to him that his parents were not married and his father had a wife and four children in another part of the city.

This must have come as a considerable blow to O'Reilly who until then thought of himself as the only child of an apparently respectable, Catholic middle-class home in the ultra-conservative Ireland of the 1950s. Commentators have made great play of the effect that his unorthodox origins had on the young O'Reilly, suggesting that his life ever since has been an attempt to seek approval and applause from a society that he feared might shun him. According to this theory, his hunger for success was fuelled by a desperate need for acceptance.

Others dismiss this as psychobabble, pointing instead to what they see as an immense wealth of raw talent.

Whatever the spur, O'Reilly gave an early indication of his ability to grab the headlines when he was selected to play for the Irish rugby team. He was capped 29 times and his ginger-topped frame quickly became a favourite for Irish supporters. In 1955 he was the youngest member of the British Lions Tour of South Africa, and in the 1959 tour of New Zealand and Australia he set a try-scoring record which remains to this day.

Off the field of play, O'Reilly graduated from University College Dublin, then qualified as a solicitor. He moved to England for a short while to work with a firm of industrial consultants before returning to Ireland to work in a merchant company specialising in agricultural products.

Then he pulled off the first of many master strokes in his career. At the age of 26, he got himself appointed chief executive of the state-controlled milk company, Bord Bainne.

It was widely speculated at the time that it was O'Reilly's sporting prowess and his undoubted skills as a networker that secured him the post. His appointment caused a ripple of discontent among the time-serving traditionalists in an Ireland dominated by state-controlled companies.

But he quickly proved his worth. O'Reilly put his growing marketing flair to work on butter. He came up with a new image and a new brand for the old dairy dependable, and Kerrygold still commands loyalty among shoppers throughout the world.

From an Bord Bainne, he moved seamlessly to the state-controlled Irish Sugar Company (forerunner of the privatised Greencore) in 1966, where he was managing director. It was during this tenure that he first made commercial contact with Heinz, signing a controversial deal under which the Sugar Company's Erin Food subsidiary agreed to supply bulk produce to Heinz in England.

At 33, O'Reilly was appointed managing director of Heinz England Ltd, and within four years he had crossed the Atlantic to take up the position of president and chief operating officer in the company's headquarters in Pittsburgh. In 1979 he became chief executive officer and almost a decade later, the company's chairman.

Today the global food processing giant with its stable of brand names such as Heinz, Weight Watchers and StarKist has worldwide sales of more than $9 billion. Its products are made in 15 countries and marketed in 200. When O'Reilly became chief executive officer, Heinz had a market capitalisation of $900 million compared with about $15 billion today. He is the largest individual shareholder with a stake said to be worth just under $300 million. O'Reilly managed to reach the top despite ruffling a lot of Heinz's corporate feathers as he insisted on devoting time and energy to his burgeoning Irish businesses. Heading one of the world's great food companies was challenging, but it was not going to get in the way of O'Reilly's ambition of becoming a leading player in his home city. From the moment he first pulled on the green rugby jersey, it was clear that being Irish was an important part of being Tony O'Reilly. By the early 1970s, the foundations of a Dublin-based empire were in place.

> Whatever you aspire to you have achieved or not achieved by the time you are 60

At the centre of it all was the *Irish Independent*, then one of the country's three national daily newspapers. Snapped up for little more than Ir£1 million in 1973, the paper is now part of a global media empire stretching from Dublin to South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Today, Independent Newspapers controls more than 75 per cent of the Irish national newspaper market and has a large stake in Newspaper Publishing, owner of *The Independent* in London. It has a 58 per cent stake in Argus, South Africa's biggest newspaper group, and an 85 per cent stake in Wilson & Horton, New Zealand's leading newspaper chain. In Australia, Independent Newspapers and the O'Reilly family trust hold a substantial stake in the Australian Provincial Newspapers chain. O'Reilly personally owns about 27 per cent of Independent Newspapers, which today has a market capitalisation of Ir£830 million.

However, Fitzwilton, his industrial holding company, has had a more chequered history. After starting out as a dynamic would-be conglomerate of the early 1970s, it hit stormy waters some years later when its fertiliser company ran into serious problems. Eventually it managed to extract itself from trouble and is now performing satisfactorily. Today, Fitzwilton owns the Wellworth chain of supermarkets in Northern Ireland, a stake in a Dublin engineering company and a 13 per cent stake in Waterford Wedgwood, the giftware company.

It is the turnround in the fortunes of the latter company that even O'Reilly's detractors concede demonstrates his true marketing genius: recognising, reinforcing and capitalising brand names. After taking a substantial stake in Waterford Wedgwood, which was on the edge of collapse in 1990, O'Reilly ruthlessly cut costs and restructured. The company is now a world leader in giftware and recently purchased a stake in a German porcelain company.

As chairman of Independent Newspapers, Fitzwilton and Waterford Wedgwood, he is a particularly busy man during the agm season in Dublin.

But the workaholic's interests don't stop there. For the past 20 years he has also been heavily involved in several oil and mineral exploration ventures in and around Ireland which have been largely unsuccessful. He has a 43 per cent stake in Arcon, which has just started production of zinc concentrate from a mine in County Kilkenny. It is set to become the biggest zinc producing operation in Europe at a time when zinc prices are rising.

And still O'Reilly finds time for a number of charitable groups, including The Ireland Fund, which has raised more than $60 million for cross-community programmes throughout Ireland. He is a loyal fan of the Irish rugby team, and attends many horse racing meetings with his second wife Chryss Goulandris, the Greek shipping heiress. Last year his $2.6 million purchase of the engagement ring that Aristotle Onassis bought for Jacqueline Kennedy prompted the most telling headline of just how far O'Reilly has risen in the firmament of world players. The New York tabloid splash read: "Tony O buys Jackie O's ring."

Widely credited with great business vision and boundless energy, O'Reilly is considered a hard but loyal task master. He is also a charming and amusing companion. "He is one of those people who after you talk to them for two minutes, you think you have a friend for life," said one business analyst in Dublin. "He really is a uniquely well-rounded person."

The three sons of O'Reilly's six children from his first marriage are all active in his various companies and are clearly being groomed to take over when he decides to step down. After a mysterious illness at the end of 1995, speculation has been rife that he may be ready to reduce his business profile. In a recent interview, he conceded that the illness was a warning to slow down, and when asked about his plans he replied: "Sixty is a time for everyone to arrive. Whatever you aspire to you have achieved or not achieved by the time you are 60." In two months O'Reilly celebrates his 61st birthday.

This type of remark and the recent promotion of William Johnson to the posts of chief operating officer and president of Heinz has fuelled speculation that O'Reilly may be ready to relinquish his role as chief executive there.

Tomorrow, he will reveal a substantial restructuring plan for Heinz. It is expected to involve selling some subsidiaries, cutting costs and shedding several thousand jobs. But according to Dublin sources close to O'Reilly, he will not use the occasion to announce his imminent departure.

"He will let Johnson show his worth on this restructuring for the next few years and then he'll decide, but he is certainly not going yet," said one source.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Fear that audit change would allow charities to avoid scrutiny is misplaced

From the Chief Executive of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations

Sir, Peter Langard's article, "Charities need special treatment" (Accountancy, March 6), implies that the Department of Trade and Industry's proposals to raise the audit threshold for small companies will lead to a loophole whereby some charities will be able to avoid having to be audit by registering to become charitable companies.

Far from being "more vulnerable to fraud, error or simply mismanagement than entities in many other sectors", charities tend to be under even greater pressure to demonstrate accountability, because of the tax breaks they enjoy, and their responsibilities to donors and other stakeholders.

In addition, the number of charities which could, conceivably, be affected by these proposals is not as large as Mr Langard assumes. Out of 180,000-plus registered charities, only 13,000 are actually charitable companies, and, of these, only 3,000 are big enough to require an audit. This leaves 10,000, only about 6 per cent of the sector, likely to fall into this category.

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations strives to encourage good practice within the voluntary sector, and we would not condone charities becoming charitable companies simply to avoid an audit. Certainly, the trend is for new charities to set up as companies, but this is invariably because of the quite legitimate need for many voluntary organisations to limit the liability of trustees and senior executives. Even if some organisations are planning to apply for charitable company status as a means of avoiding an audit, they are unlikely to get far. Under charity law, any charity with gross income or expenditure exceeding £10,000 a year is required to file its accounts with the Charity Commission.

Yours faithfully,

STUART ETHERINGTON,
Regent's Wharf,
8 All Saints Street, N1.

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ACCOUNTANCY

Teamwork against fraud

Tony Bingham highlights proposals for an advisory panel to combat what is largely a preventable crime

When the Audit Faculty embarked on its campaign "Taking Fraud Seriously", Ian Davison said at the launch conference that little had changed in ten years and that the prosecution of fraud was lamentable.

It is because the faculty does not want *another ten years to* go by without much progress that it has promoted debate on whether sufficient anti-fraud measures are being taken. Remarkably, the problems are well understood: fraud is a threat to business, to the public and to confidence in UK plc and there is widespread interest in a more co-ordinated approach to combating fraud more effectively. Fraud is, in *large measure, a preventable* crime.

A principal concern was the fragmented approach to the problem of fraud and the multiplicity of players, which puts a premium on effective co-operation.

The faculty recommends that government should establish a standing body — a fraud advisory panel — to improve co-operation between government, law enforcement agencies, the private sector and other interested parties.

Such a panel would also aim to increase overall awareness of the problem of fraud and how its effects could best be limited.

No moves have yet been made in government to set up a panel and it is unlikely that further effort will be made in the short term. Individual government departments and regulators, however, continue *to take anti-fraud steps* in targeted areas.

For example, considerable efforts are being made in regulated financial sectors to address money-laundering and financial fraud. In the specific area of social security crime, the Government has taken a *high-profile route* to reduce losses to the public purse from benefits fraud, with some reported success.

What is needed now is more effort at reducing losses from fraud across the whole business community. There is no point expecting *higher standards of commercial* behaviour if those standards are not to be enforced.

The Audit Faculty *strongly believes that a fraud advisory* panel would be a public benefit and, in the absence of others taking a lead, is prepared to act as a *catalyst for progress. It* has issued a consultation paper and will initiate steps to set up a panel if there is enough support.

The proposal is that the panel should be a forum for discussion and policy advice *on ways of combating serious* fraud affecting the business community and the public.

The panel should comprise *people with a strong interest in* the subject matter who would help to collect and analyse information on fraud and make recommendations to government and others on *what more can and should be* done.

Only a few weeks ago the faculty reported the results of a survey through *Accountancy Age* that confirmed what many auditors suspect, that there is a worrying trend of increasing fraud risks, with the opportunities for fraud far outstripping measures to prevent and detect fraud and prosecute those who perpetrate it.

Fraud is a serious and growing problem for investors, employees, suppliers and customers. It is not, as some have characterised it, a victimless crime.

What is needed is a more *holistic approach and more* effective teamwork of all those who can make a contribution. A new fraud advisory panel *could be an effective way of* identifying priorities for action.

The panel would provide a voice for those engaged in fighting fraud, and serve as a clearing house for information and ideas. It would aim to open channels of communication *with the various* investigating and prosecuting bodies and others who are interested in the field, setting its own agenda but also reacting to events and developments.

The consultation paper can be obtained from Margaret Cassidy at The Audit Faculty, The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, PO Box 433, Moorgate Place, London EC2P 2BJ. Alternatively, call *0171-920 8526.*

Comments should be sent to her on the proposal no later than Friday May 30, 1997. The faculty will be arranging an open meeting on May 14 to discuss the proposal and priorities for the panel's work.

Tony Bingham is chairman of the ICAEW Audit Faculty's Fraud Working Party and a Business Assurance partner at Coopers & Lybrand.

MICHAEL POWELL

Tony Bingham says that greater co-operation is needed

Open debate must precede harmony

THIS week has seen all the arguments about the future of financial reporting around the world being fully exercised. First, *Denny* Beresford, chairman of the US Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), was in London to sit in on a meeting of the UK Accounting *Standards Board* (ASB). *Then* Brussels was knee-deep in accountants at the conference sponsored by the English ICA and the International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC) on the implications of international accounting standards.

Yet this outbreak of discussions is unusual. Normally everything is discussed behind closed doors. It is no wonder that finance directors and industry groups become frustrated. Or, as has been happening in this country, they know little of what the process will mean to their companies and their *financial reporting methods and so care little* about the process. This does not happen in the US. There the meetings of the FASB take place in public. "Our process," said Beresford last week, "is so *much more open* than here." For him, the advantage is that companies have no excuse for not knowing what is going on. In this country companies do have a great deal of private input into the work of the ASB's deliberations. But it also *means that once proposals are published* they can also go into paroxysms of outrage in an effort to have them altered. "We will be meeting with companies all the time," said Beresford. "All of our meetings are open to the public. People know where we stand." This does not mean that people find the rules easier to cope with. On the contrary, the FASB spent much of last year fighting a move that would have given industry a greater say under the FASB voting structure. And he knows exactly the sort of complaints *that businesses bring against rulemakers* anywhere. "We listen," he said, "but we don't always agree."

It does help that the FASB is well funded. *Its members are full-time rather than the* volunteer representatives who make up the ASB. But it is the openness of the process that makes it an easier one. The ASB has tried to be as open as it feels that it can. When the goodwill rules were in the melting pot, it devoted two days to public hearings on the subject. They were effective. But what the hearings tended to emphasise was the breadth of disagreement and the wealth of peculiar fringe ideas from both academia and industry. To put the more exotic ideas as well as the mainstream arguments on show meant that a consensus was easier to reach if only because the central players closed ranks against the more eccentric outsiders.

But it is seen as more or less impossible to open up the ASB's main deliberations. Partly this is to do with the nature of the board. The deliberations at FASB are between the full-time members of the board. At the ASB it would be between people who *are finance* directors or audit partners or professors of accounting elsewhere. All have interests that at times they will feel they have to represent rather than simply *reflect in what they* argue and how they vote. To do that in public would be difficult. Someone from a large accounting firm, for example, can reveal *things in private* which could not be aired in public, if only for legal reasons or client confidentiality. It also suits the UK culture of sorting out business matters behind closed doors. In the US business matters are more central to the nation's culture. And Beresford also pointed to another benefit from having the *deliberations in public.* "We are much more polite towards each other," he said.

But there is a larger issue *here and that* is the international dimension. The IASC is trying to get its entire programme of core standards *wrapped up* by this time *next* year. If it can do that then IOSCO, the international securites organisation, will consider whether or not the IASC's standards should be deemed to be the international benchmark by which foreign companies gain a listing on US stock markets. It is not a foregone conclusion, and the US Securities and Exchange Commission is likely to take issue with it. But it is an epic effort by the IASC for global *harmonisation* of financial reporting rules.

The problem is that several of the standards that it promulgates are not those *that the UK for example,* recognises. On pensions and tax there are going to be significant problems. If there was ever a real need for public discussion, it is the deliberations of the IASC over the next year which should be open. "Companies," said Beresford, "are simply not going to feel part of the process." And then he put it more clearly and more centrally. "It's the principle of no taxation without representation."

ROBERT BRUCE

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Piqued by partnership law

FORGET the arguments about the concept of "clawback". What really annoys large accountancy firms about the Government's proposals on *partnership law changes is some of* the legal language. In the section guarding against partners salting away excessive profits before the unlikely event of a partnership going bust, it talks of "reasonable domestic needs". Outraged accountants recognised a straight lift from insolvency law. "The impertinence," fumed one. "We're being treated in the same way *as bankrupts are."*

Price of progress

PRICE WATERHOUSE has forsaken the straight and narrow. The security gates at its London building by the Thames used to have a security system which worked only if partners and employees had the correct electronic *gizmo and took a perfectly* straight path through the sensors. Now they have reverted to wafting a pass under the gaze of the gateman. The reason, apparently, is the good accounting one of spiralling costs. As our informant told us, *the little electronic marvels* "cost £13 a pop and we seemed to be losing a lot of them".

Brussels spouts

THE chairman of the international accounting standards conference in Brussels was pushing his luck as he opened proceedings this week. Noting that the international rules were *likely to exclude the UK's* preferred options on deferred tax and pensions, Price Waterhouse partner Graham Ward *mused on companies'* likely responses. Would they be happy "to report what they perceive as unrealistically low *profit figures*", or would they simply think it "an unacceptable price to pay for access to international capital"? Answers to Ward on a postcard.

ROBERT BRUCE

Queen's Bench Divisional Court — Law Report March 13 1997 — Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Right of access to court denied

Regina v Lord Chancellor, Ex parte Witham

Before Lord Justice Rose and Mr Justice Laws

[Judgment March 7]

Access to the court was a constitutional right which could only be denied by the government if it persuaded Parliament to pass legislation which by express provision permitted the executive to turn people away from the court door.

Consequently, as section 130 of the Supreme Court Act 1981 did not have words to alert the reader that fees might be imposed which would deny absolutely right of access to court, a measure enacted by the Lord Chancellor under that section revoking exemption for litigants in person on income support and powers to reduce or remit fees where there was undue *financial hardship in exceptional* circumstances was unlawful.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated in a reserved judgment when granting an application for judicial review by John Witham seeking a declaration that article 3 of the Supreme Court Fees (Amendment) Order (SI 1996 No 3191), which came into force on January 15, 1997, was ultra vires and unlawful in so far as its effect was to deny him his constitutional right of access to the court.

Mr Witham was on income support and sought to bring proceedings in person for defamation which did not attract legal aid. The 1996 Order increased to £120 the fee for issuing a writ for claims less than £10,000 and to £500 for claims where there was no monetary limit. No exemption was made for litigants in Mr Witham's position who could not afford the fees.

Mr Peter Duffy for Mr Witham; Mr Stephen Richards for the Lord Chancellor.

MR JUSTICE LAWS said that article 3 of the 1996 Order repealed provisions contained in article 5(1) and (3) of the Supreme Court Fees Order (SI 1980 No 821) which relieved litigants in person who were in receipt of income support from the obligation to pay fees and *permitted the Lord Chancellor to* reduce or remit the fee in any particular case on the ground of undue financial hardship in exceptional circumstances.

The applicant was unable to issue proceedings because he could not afford the revised fees. He could not sue for defamation in the county court and his prospective defendants in other suits did not consent to his claim being brought there.

The court had evidence describing other categories of cases where persons on very low incomes were prevented by the terms of the 1996 Order, in particular article 3, from taking process in the courts.

The principal categories were certain types of debt and housing cases. Those included a person on income support who could not afford the £10 fee to apply to set aside a default judgment, and another person on income support threatened with eviction as a consequence of possession proceedings by her landlord's building society who could not afford the £20 fee to be joined in the proceedings as an interested party.

In his Lordship's view, it was clear on the evidence that there was a wide ranging variety of situations in which persons on very low incomes were in practice denied access to the courts to prosecute claims or, in some circumstances, to take steps to resist the effects of claims brought against them.

The actual or purported vires for *the 1996 Order was found in* section 130 of the 1981 Act.

Mr Duffy's primary submission was that there existed implied limitations upon the Lord *Chancellor's power to prescribe the fees* to be taken in the Supreme Court.

Section 130 did not permit him to exercise the power in such a way as to deprive the citizen of what had been called his constitutional right of access to the courts. Such a constitutional right was said to derive from the common law and article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The common law did not generally speak in the language of *constitutional rights. In the unwritten* legal order of the British state, at a time when common law continued to accord a legislative supremacy to Parliament, a constitutional right could, in his Lordship's judgment, inhere only in the following proposition: that the right in question could not be abrogated by the state save by specific provision in an Act of Parliament, or by regulations whose vires in main legislation specifically conferred the power to abrogate.

General words would not suffice and any such rights would be creatures of the common law, since their existence would not be the *consequences of the democratic* political process but would be logically prior to it.

Mr Duffy cited authorities to support that proposition including *Bremer Vulkan Schiffbau und Maschinenfabrik v South India Shipping Corporation* ([1981] AC 909) and *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Leech* ([1994] QB 198).

In *Boaler* ([1915] 1 KB 21) the principle vouchsafed was that the citizen's right of access to the courts was not to be cut down save by clear words.

His Lordship did not consider it necessary to refer to the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights since he considered that the issues might correctly be resolved by domestic law.

The common law provided no lesser protection of the right of access to *the courts than might be* vindicated in Strasbourg. The House of Lords had held the same to be true in relation to the right of freedom of expression.

His Lordship could not think that the right of access to justice was in some way a lesser right than that of free expression: the circumstances in which free speech *might justifiably be curtailed,* in his Lordship's view, ran wider that any in which the citizen might properly be prevented by the state from seeking redress from the Queen's courts.

Indeed the right to a fair trial which of necessity imported the *right of access to the court,* was as near to an absolute right as any which could be envisaged.

It seemed to his Lordship from all the authorities that the common law had clearly given special weight to the citizen's right of access to the courts. It had been described as a constitutional right, although the cases did not explain what that meant.

Nothing had been shown to displace the proposition that the executive could not in law abrogate *the right to access to justice, unless* specifically so permitted by Parliament and that was the meaning of the constitutional right.

His Lordship would find great difficulty in conceiving a form of words capable of making it plain beyond doubt to the reader of a statute that the provision in question prevented him from going to court, for that was what would be required, save in a case where that was expressly stated.

His Lordship would reject the submission that there was no vires argument. Section 130 contained nothing to alert the reader to any possibility that fees might be imposed in circumstances such as to deny absolutely the citizen's right of access to the courts.

Mr Richards argued that the 1996 Order contained or implied *no such bar; other factors might* bear on the impecunious litigant's position, in particular the possibility of assistance by way of legal aid, which, if granted, paid the court fees.

But there was no legal aid for a defamation plaintiff, nor, in effect for many others affected by the 1996 Order.

Mr Richards submitted that it was *for the Lord Chancellor's* discretion to decide what litigation should be supported by taxpayers' money and what should not. That was right as regarded the expenses of legal representation.

Payment out of legal aid of lawyers' fees to conduct litigation was a subsidy by the state which in general was well within the power of the executive, subject to the relevant main legislation, to regulate.

But the impost of court fees, was *to his Lordship's mind, subject to* wholly different considerations. They were the cost of going to court at all, lawyers or no lawyers. They were not the choice of the litigant who might by contrast choose how much to spend on his lawyers.

In his Lordship's judgment the 1996 Order's effect was to bar absolutely many persons from seeking justice from the courts. Access to the courts was a constitutional right: it could only be denied by the government if it persuaded Parliament to pass *legislation* which specifically, in effect by express provision, permitted the executive to turn people away from the court door. That had not been done in the present case.

Lord Justice Rose agreed.

Solicitors: Bindman & Partners; Treasury Solicitor.

Hostile driving sentence

Regina v Dickinson

Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Mr *Justice Harrison and Mr Justice* Nelson

[Judgment February 20]

Where a driver used his car in a hostile manner towards a cyclist, who suffered injuries from which he died, such an action was regarded as very grave even where there were no other aggravating features.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in allowing an appeal by Anthony Dickinson *against a sentence of four and a* half years imprisonment imposed in October 1996 at the Central Criminal Court (Mr Recorder Milford, QC) on conviction of causing death by dangerous driving.

Mr Peter Guest for the appellant; Mr Stephen Holt for the prosecution.

MR JUSTICE NELSON, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appellant, a taxi driver, had an argument with a cyclist while waiting at traffic lights.

As they moved off the cyclist appeared to be trying to keep pace with the taxi and made a sudden unexplained movement towards it. The taxi then swerved violently towards the cyclist before accelerating away.

The vehicles did not come into contact but the cyclist fell to the ground and suffered fatal head injuries.

The appellant was convicted of causing death by dangerous driving.

Mr Guest had argued that there were many mitigating features and only one aggravating factor which was that the appellant's driving was deliberately hostile *but their Lordships regarded that* as very grave, even, as was suggested, if he had been provoked by the cyclist's aggressive manner.

It was not acceptable for a person to lose his temper while driving and to act upon it. Nevertheless, the proper sentence in the case was three and half years and the appeal would be allowed to that extent.

Solicitors: Chethams, Oxford Street; Crown Prosecution Service, Artillery Row.

Driver need not be told everything

Fraser v Director of Public Prosecutions

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice and Mr Justice Moses

[Judgment January 29]

Where a motorist was entitled under section 8(2) of the Road Traffic Act 1988 to claim to replace his specimen of breath with a sample of blood or of urine, the police constable, in asking him whether he wished to do so, was not required by sections 7(4) and 8(2) of the Act, to tell him that if the constable required a specimen of blood it would be taken by a medical practitioner.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held dismissing Paul Fraser's appeal by way of case stated from Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court (Judge Lowden and justices) which had upheld his conviction by Gateshead Justices for drink driving contrary to section 5(1) of the 1988 Act and Schedule 2 to the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988, as amended by the Road Traffic Act 1991.

Having failed a roadside breathalyser, the defendant was breath *tested at the police station and a* result was recorded which entitled him under section 8(2) to claim to replace the sample of breath with a *sample of blood or of urine.*

In accordance with a form used by the Northumbria Police, the police constable informed him of that right and asked whether he *wished to avail himself of it.* The constable did not tell him that if the constable selected a replacement specimen of blood it would be taken by a doctor.

The defendant declined to exercise his right and subsequently asserted that failure to refer in terms to the doctor's role as the blood taker, if a replacement blood sample were required, invalidated the statutory procedure and entitled him to be acquitted.

Mr Peter Greenfield for the defendant; the prosecution was not present or represented.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that it was apparent from the language of sections 7(4) and 8(2) that they contained no statutory requirement to tell the driver in terms that a blood sample would be taken by a doctor.

The ratio of *Director of Public Prosecutions v Warren* ([1993] AC 319) was that neither section required a driver to be invited to express a *preference* for giving either blood or urine.

Cases concluding that a driver should have an opportunity to express a preference were held to *contain an impermissible gloss on* the statute. The effect of the decision was accordingly to extirpate that heresy.

It was plain, however that in Warren. Lord Bridge of Harwich (at p327), with whose speech the other members of the House agreed, gave an account of what *the driver should be told including* express reference to the taking of blood by a doctor.

At p332 however, he embarked on a summary of his views on the proper approach to the sections. That summary contained no requirement that the driver should be expressly told that blood would be taken by a doctor, but if the constable intended to require such a sample to be so taken, then the driver had to be told of his right to object.

The *form* of words used by the Northumbria Police was closely modelled on that summary. If that form of words were defective then Lord Bridge's summary omitted an essential feature of his earlier and longer passage.

His Lordship referred, in particular, to *Robinson v Chief Constable of Merseyside Police* (unreported, April 23, 1995, DC); *Chatelard v DPP* (unreported, October 11, 1996, DC); and *Gorman v DPP; DPP v Arnup* (unreported, November 7, 1996, DC) where Lord Justice Rose, giving the leading judgment, had said:

"To comply with the statutory *requirements* a driver must be asked whether there are reasons why a specimen of blood should not be *taken. A driver* must consent to the taking of blood by a doctor ... and therefore ... must be *specifically* told that, if he consents, a doctor will take blood..."

His Lordship said that it did not seem to follow from the fact that consent would be required if blood were to be taken by a doctor at a later stage, that a driver had to be told in terms at an earlier stage that it would be so taken.

There were plainly several things which a driver had to be told at some stage, but it did not follow that he had necessarily to be told all of them at the outset.

There was some danger that a *new and heretical gloss* was beginning to be put on the statute such as was condemned in the *Warren* case. The Northumbria Police warning was in strict accordance with Lord Bridge's summary which contained everything that the statute itself required a driver to be told at the outset.

To the extent that the longer passage at p327 contained matters not contained in the short passage at p332 and not required by the statute, it was valuable guidance but not a *mandatory requirement* that that information be given at the outset.

His Lordship would accordingly rule that there was, on the facts *found by the crown court,* a sufficient compliance with sections 7(4) and 8(2) of the 1988 Act.

The defendant had been rightly convicted and his appeal failed.

Mr Justice Moses agreed.

Solicitors: Singleton Winn, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Constable need not quiz motorist over test

Regina v Cheshire Stipendiary Magistrate, Ex parte Director of Public Prosecutions

Before Lord Justice Brooke and Mr Justice Blofeld

[Judgment March 10]

When a driver was required by a police constable to provide a specimen of blood or urine, under section 7(3) of the Road Traffic Act 1988, the constable was not required to ask him in advance of his refusal whether there were any reasons why a specimen of blood could not or should not be taken from him by a doctor.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held allowing an appeal by way of case stated against a *decision of the Cheshire Stipendiary* Magistrate sitting at Widnes on November 2, 1995, to acquit Ronald Francis Donnelly of failing without reasonable excuse to provide a specimen of blood or urine.

Mr Steven Everett for the DPP; Mr Nigel J. Ley for Mr Donnelly.

MR JUSTICE BLOFELD said Mr Donnelly had been arrested after getting into his car when he was apparently drunk.

At the police station, the custody *officer had tried to administer a* breath test with a Lion Intoximeter, but the machine was not working properly and the test was abandoned.

The custody officer, reading from a pro forma, had informed Mr Donnelly *that he required* a specimen of blood or urine for a laboratory test.

The officer said he would decide whether the specimen was to be of blood or urine, but Mr Donnelly would have an opportunity to make representations which it should be.

He warned Mr Donnelly that failure to provide a specimen would make him liable to prosecution and asked whether he would do so. Mr Donnelly had replied "No".

The magistrate had acquitted because the officer had not told Mr Donnelly that any specimen of blood would be taken by a doctor, and he had not been asked whether there was any medical or other reason blood could not be taken: see *DPP v Warren* ([1993] AC 219).

His *Lordship referred* to *R v Gateshead Magistrates Court, Ex parte Fraser* (*The Times* March 13), in which a driver who turned down the opportunity under section 8(2) of the 1988 Act to replace a breath specimen with a specimen of blood or urine was held rightly convicted even though he had never been told that any blood specimen would be *taken by a* doctor.

In his Lordship's view there was no reason why the principle in that case should not apply to Mr Donnelly's case.

Lord Justice Brooke agreed.

Solicitors: CPS, Warrington; Byrne Fordsham & Co, Widnes.

To 'download' a computer

Regina v City of London Magistrates' Court and Another, Ex parte Green

To "download" a computer meant to "transfer (data) from one storage *device or system to another" in* accordance wih the definition contained in *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English* (9th edition (1995)).

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Staughton and Mr Justice Scott Baker) so stated on February 13 giving reasons for *dismissing on February 6,* Jeffrey Green's motion to commit for contempt of court the Director of the Serious Fraud Office and four officers therefrom for alleged breaches of injunctions of December *6 and 10, 1995,* in respect of computers seized by the SFO pursuant to a warrant.

MR JUSTICE SCOTT BAKER said that the applicant relied *on the* dictionary definition of "download".

The SFO had considered that downloading included not only the imaging *process,* that is, transferring information from the computer to another storage device, but also the next stage of writing the image to compact disc: only *then* would the image be secure.

The correct meaning was that described in *The Concise Oxford Dictionary.*

Although there was an obligation strictly to *comply with the* terms of an injunction, the courts would only punish a person for contempt upon adequate proof that: (i) the terms of the injunction were clear and unambiguous, (ii) the particular defendant in the contempt proceedings had proper notice of such terms and (iii) he had broken those terms. In the present case neither (i) nor (ii) had been met.

Correction

In *Jones and Another v Welsh Rugby Football Union* (*The Times* March 6), counsel for the plaintiffs were Mr William Norris and Miss Joanne Cash.

Equities lose ground

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
566	407½	Allied Domecq	445	- ½	6.6	13.4
626	477	Bulmer (HP)	626	...	2.7	18.6
131	63½	Burn Stewart	70½		6.0	74.8
1020	815	Glenmorangie A	1005		1.5	27.3
496	411	Grand Met	485½	+ 1½	4.1	15.7
493	424	Guinness	475½	+ 1½	4.0	14.8
380	315	Highland Dist	371	- 1½	2.8	17.9
403	255½	Matthew Clark	321	...	9.3	15.3
141	91½	Merrydown W	104½	- 1½	5.5	14.1
2612½	1375	SA Breweries	1950	+ 18½	1.8	.

BANKS

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
4706½	2743½	ABN-AMRO	4493½	- 21½	2.6	18.1
811	528	Abbey Natl	785½	- 6	4.2	13.8
455½	315	Allied Irish	441½	+ 6	4.1	
408½	285	Aus New Z	387½	+ 2½	4.9	
7678½	3843½	Bank America	7534½	- 146½		
373½	227½	Bank Scotland	352	- 4½	2.6	12.9
1226	683	Barclays	1117	- 10½	3.5	11.3
635	413	Bk of Ireland	635	+ 7	3.3	14.4
7890½	4031½	Citicorp	7840½	- 58		
1686½	1268½	Commerzbk	1686½	+ 46½	2.6	
1350	808½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	786½	+ 6½	0.6	
3490½	2709½	Deutsche Bk	3471½		1.9	
909½	593½	Espirito Santo	909½	+ 8½	3.8	12.6
1507	600½	Fuji Bank Y	735½	- 1½	0.6	
1622	931	HSBC	1597	- 18½	3.3	13.6
1563½	930	HSBC HK	1541	- 14½	3.4	13.1
600	385	Irish Perm	600		2.7	
534	294½	Lloyds TSB	519½	+ ½	3.2	16.8
819½	566	Nat Aust Bk	793½	+ ½	5.4	10.2
844½	605½	Nat Westr	744	- 2	4.9	11.2
632½	464	Royal Bk Scot	576	- 8½	4.0	12.8
900½	547	Stand Chartt	858	- 15½	2.1	15.4
£174½	£131½	Wells Fargo	£164½		2.0	...
374½	254	Westpac	357½	+ 3	3.9	11.1

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
467½	329	Electrocomponents	429	+ 1	2.0	25.9
314	172½	Eurodis Elect	293½		1.0	29.0
156	65	Eurodollar	137		5.5	13.9
105	76	European Mtr	85	- 1	7.5	8.0
375	217	Evans Halshaw	358½		0.8	10.1
67	39½	Fife Indmar	50½		8.2	7.6
397½	232½	Finelist Group	396½		2.1	19.5
34½	16½	Gardiners	33½		3.5	12.8
81	33½	Glenchewton	76	+ ½	2.2	
110	70½	Gowrings	104½		3.3	17.8
101	72	Hamlet	87½	- ½	8.1	8.6
292	216	Harris (Philip)	259		4.2	15.8
317½	207½	Headlam	316½	+ 1½	2.3	26.2
200	132	Holmes Tech	149		5.0	14.0
242½	153	[illegible]	224½	+ 1	1.8	
348	231	Inchcape	257½	- 1½	4.0	22.0
78	33	Jacks (Wm)	52½		4.8	18.1
260	169	Kwik-Fit	227½	+ 1	2.8	18.7
290	230	Lex Service	[illegible]	- 4½	6.0	10.6
155	105	Lookers	108½	- 7	9.7	6.9
17	10½	Malaya Grp	13½	- ½	6.3	
9½	5½	[illegible]	7½		1.2	11.9
47	31	[illegible]	39		0.8	
565	229	[illegible]	274	+ 40	3.6	7.6
174½	115	[illegible]	164		1.1	9.6
370½	201½	Partco	355	+ 1½	3.0	..
404½	272	Pendragon	394½		3.2	
212½	145	Perry Gp	210½	- 1	5.0	10.7
752½	480	Premier Farnell	516½	+ 9½	2.8	20.1
190	135	Quicks Group	145½	- 1	5.6	10.9
348	185	REA	223½	- 1½	1.5	38.8
3	2	Reece	2½			
54	20	[illegible]	23		8.2	7.9
4½	2	Ross Gp	3		...	
56	25½	SEP Indl	28½		7.6	7.7
195	55	[illegible]	57½		2.2	18.6
417½	246	[illegible]	415	- ½	3.3	17.0
301½	123	UMECO	227½	- 4	2.5	17.0
352½	263½	Vardy (Reg)	335½		2.6	14.6
650	325	WF Electt	612		2.7	22.2
69	25½	Wilsons	37½	+ ½	2.9	11.0
172½	75½	[illegible]	138½		2.1	18.5
154½	104	Young (H)	142½		3.7	17.3

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1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
107½	18	Abacus Recruit	105½		0.6	20.3
273	85	Cafe Inns	185	+ 2½	1.5	15.0
185½	58	County Gdns	180½	+ ½	1.0	18.6
2550	860	Dawson Hldgs	2500	- 12½	2.0	19.2
51½	14	Freepages	48			..
117	88½	Megalomedia	90			50.5
475	22½	Memory Corp	48½	...		
239½	85½	Old English Pub	222½		0.8	69.9
580	151	Prism Rail	365	- 5		
1265	379	Ramco Eng	1120	+ 17½	0.1	
756	520	Southern Newsp	755	+ 1½	3.0	24.6
79½	50	Southern Vectis	67½		3.5	14.5
496	122	Surrey Fr Invest	473½		0.7	32.8
78½	33½	Trocadero	40			

Source: FT Information

Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * Figures or report awaited; ... No significant data; Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 index.

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UK Growth Inc	332.90	354.20	- 0.40	2.37
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Higher Inc Inc	488.90	520.20	- 0.60	3.80
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Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	92.98	98.22	- 0.22	5.44
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Balanced Inc	63.54	67.60	- 0.08	2.37
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Pac Basin Acc	410.40	436.60	+ 0.40	0.90

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Extra Income #	53.11	55.89†	+ 0.11	5.82
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Fixed Interest #	26.25	27.92†	+ 0.03	8.70
Fund Inv Tst #	173.40	181.90	+ 0.40	9.13
Japan	155.03	161.10	- 0.30	
Latin American	71.78	74.68	+ 0.34	0.65
Pacific	83.32	87.48	+ 0.38	0.30
Property Share	82.97	87.11	- 0.04	2.02
UK Emerging Cos	74.40	80.41	- 0.01	1.20
UK Growth	61.34	63.88	- 0.12	1.84
Abn World Port #	88.37	90.53	- 0.03	2.75
Ethical	85.82	87.75	- 0.21	2.02
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.42	50.46†	+ 0.02	7.34

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Rsrch Property #	99.17	105.50†		5.38

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Pacific Portfolio	169.12	181.86	+ 1.09	0.73
UK Equity	107.15	114.39	- 0.01	3.11
UK Equity & Bd	62.38	66.12	- 0.08	6.09
UK Smlr Cos	56.36	60.28†	+ 0.07	1.56

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Inv Fund	838.86	851.54	+22.08	4.04
Fxd Int Sec	158.40	159.04	+ 0.26	8.99

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Investment Inc	820.25	832.65	+10.37	4.13
Investment Acc	1538.29	1538.87	+48.58	.
Fixed Int Inc	130.32	130.64	- 0.18	8.87
Fixed Int Acc	242.72	243.70	- 0.86	...

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
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Beck Bio-Tech	46.65	50.63	..	
Acorn Ethical Tst	194.17	203.90		0.42
City Fin Assets	85.19	89.46		1.72
City Fin Intl	92.80	97.45	+ 1.30	0.13
Fours Hse Cap	331.02	352.15		2.26
Buckley Wrld Gth	145.00	153.70†	+ 1.83	
J Sid Inc/Gth Inc	61.23	64.30		3.23
Shaw Utilities	66.97	68.42	- 0.37	6.47

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Emerging Markets	61.35	65.09†	+ 0.37	

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Gwth	86.60	92.13	+ 0.18	..
Dragon Growth	75.26	80.49	+ 0.29	0.32
Equity High Inc	100.51	107.70†	- 0.01	3.54
-do- Accum	147.35	157.89	- 0.01	3.54
Extra Income Inc	27.47	28.92	- 0.01	6.87
Extra Income Acc	30.66	32.28	- 0.02	6.87
European Gwth	70.75	75.07	- 0.36	0.34
Evergreen	32.81	35.09	- 0.15	.
General Equity	117.18	124.33	- 0.12	2.51
Japan Growth	37.71	40.12	- 0.13	
Pedigree Gwth	70.15	75.11	- 0.05	2.03
Ped Sm Cos Inc	41.50	44.62	+ 0.11	1.00
-do- Accum	44.24	47.57	+ 0.13	1.00
Retirement Inc #	30.59	32.58	- 0.06	5.49
Special Sits	51.38	55.25	- 0.26	2.49
UK & Overseas	65.04	69.01	+ 0.06	0.55

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced	75.60	78.75†	- 0.17	3.83
Capital	91.37	95.17†	- 0.30	2.41
High Income	53.72	55.95†	- 0.06	6.45
Top 50	62.84	65.45†	- 0.16	2.34

COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD
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PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	214.24	223.19	- 0.32	4.12
Long Gilt	45.26	47.12	- 0.32	5.96
Monthly Inc Plus	52.78	54.99	- 0.10	8.15
Preference Share	50.52	52.63	- 0.17	7.41
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	155.72	162.23	- 0.30	5.26
Managed Fund	81.89	85.31	+ 0.12	2.60
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	58.09	60.52	+ 0.13	1.57
-do- Accum	68.66	71.53	+ 0.15	1.57
UK & General	109.46	114.03	- 0.05	2.64
-do- Accum	144.03	150.05	- 0.06	2.64
UK Growth	220.73	229.95	- 0.11	1.22
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	237.56	247.48	- 0.66	0.99
Far Eastern Gth	132.14	137.66	+ 0.51	0.02
Global Bond	76.45	79.64	+ 0.58	6.22
Japan Growth	92.89	96.77	+ 0.21	
North Amer Gth	276.63	288.19	+ 2.71	
Oriental Growth	88.46	92.16	+ 0.37	0.25

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Cazenove Portfolio	110.00	117.36	+ 0.11	2.09
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European Portfolio	155.30	165.09	- 0.54	0.56
High Income	53.33	53.48†	- 0.23	7.09
Japanese Portfolio	53.86	57.12†	- 0.17	

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
World Health	221.90	236.00	+ 2.30	
Income #	248.38	264.23	+ 0.06	3.93
UK Growth	96.78	102.95	+ 0.05	1.80
Intl Growth	92.45	98.35†	- 0.70	0.57
Ecology	114.11	121.39	+ 0.07	0.86
European	236.307	251.39	- 0.44	0.20
Far Eastern	321.20	341.70	- 0.10	.
UK Special Sits	61.38	65.47	+ 0.26	0.37
Fd of Inv Tsts	57.69	61.53	+ 0.05	.
High Income #	56.08	59.81	- 0.14	4.65

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Dealers: 0171 956 7354

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	103.10	106.50†	+ 0.10	6.84
Euro Prov Inc	115.10	122.40	- 0.80	2.75
-do- Accum	115.10	122.40	- 0.80	2.75
Gilt Yield	120.80	127.40†	- 0.50	6.35
Global Income	250.00	266.00†	+ 0.80	3.00
High Yield	175.90	187.10	- 0.60	4.98
-do- Accum	587.40	624.90	- 2.00	4.98
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Smllr Cos Div	67.67	71.99†	+ 0.12	3.59
Tomorrows Co Ex Acc	10.560	10.700		
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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Growth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Intl Bond	63.97	67.22	[illegible]	[illegible]
Intl Equity Growth	90.55	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
N Amer Growth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Special Sits Growth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
UK Growth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
-do- Accum	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

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[illegible]	121.50	128.40†		6.31
[illegible]	258.40	277.90	- 0.40	1.06
[illegible]	121.70	138.62	- 0.40	0.76
Smaller Cos	129.30	199.20	- 3.30	1.46
[illegible]	91.42	96.92	- 0.17	
Far Eastern				

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Equity Inc	496.80	529.80	+ 1.40	2.25
-do- Accum	762.10	812.80	+ 2.10	2.25
UK High Inc	241.70	257.80	- 0.80	2.18

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Mgd	61.25	65.00	+ 0.46	1.80
UK Stockmarket	113.60	120.70	+ 0.70	2.33
Corporate Bd Inc	49.20	49.30	- 0.09	6.38
Do Accum	52.08	52.19	- 0.09	6.38

Source: FT Information

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return). † Ex dividend. ‡ Middle price. ... No significant data. # Periodic Charge deducted from capital. @ Exit Charge.

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاعلام

7

■ FILM 1

Epic scenes, intense drama, and intelligence too: no wonder *The English Patient* has won huge acclaim

■ FILM 2

... and *Mother Night* also deserves plaudits for its careful treatment of Kurt Vonnegut's novel

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ FILM 3

... but the family fun and heartache of *The Evening Star* are strictly for the sentimental

■ FILM 4

... and a thriller about Lorca's death is received with indignation by the Spanish

CINEMA: **Geoff Brown** on why *The English Patient* has the prescription for Academy Award success

Minghella serves up Oscar's just deserts

A biplane flies low over an expanse of desert sculpted by sun and shadow into the most sensuous shapes. We could almost be looking at a woman's body. This is the gorgeous opening image of **The English Patient**, which has drummed up more heated expectations and Academy Award nominations (12 in all) than any film for some time.

As the camera sweeps across the landscape, you can almost hear the director, Anthony Minghella, saying: "Look, I can be David Lean too!" True, he has something to brag about: whoever thought the British director of *Truly Madly Deeply* and *Mr Wonderful*, as fetching and quirky as they were, had the stamina to attempt a romantic epic?

The film, it seems, can hardly wait to shower us with luscious sights as it tackles Michael Ondaatje's complex novel of love, loyalty and national identity among the shifting sands of the Second World War.

Not that we stay in the desert for long. There is a stupendous crash. A burnt survivor — "I'm a bit of toast, my friend" — is being interrogated in Italy, but has little memory of events. He looks like, indeed he is, Ralph Fiennes, but a Fiennes plastered over with prosthetics from Jim Henson's Creature Shop. He is referred to as "the English patient", but flashbacks gradually identify him as a Hungarian count, Laszlo Almásy, engaged before the war in mapping the Sahara and smouldering with passion for a colleague's wife, Katharine Clifton, played by the poised and pert Kristin Scott Thomas.

In the novel, this adulterous affair takes its place among a clutch of relationships woven round the figure of the burnt patient, nursed in a ruined Tuscan monastery as the Americans advance through Italy. Minghella takes note of the other elements, the network of metaphors and literary references. But he guides Almásy and Katharine to the forefront, lured no doubt by the visual appeal of the English elite in prewar Cairo and adultery in a sandstorm. Who wants to look at charred skin in shadow for two-and-three-quarter hours?

Aided by John Seale's excellent photography, Minghella presents an intoxicating physical landscape. The interior landscape is more problematic. Almásy may be Hungarian, but in Fiennes's hands he suffers from the English vice of emotional repression. Audiences wait an age before these lovers kiss: even when physical contact is achieved, the passion that drives Almásy to forgo his aloofness and risk life and limb can only be guessed at.

The English Patient
Curzon West End
15, 162 mins
Intelligent romantic epic

Mother Night
Metro, 15, 114 mins
Absorbing adaptation of Kurt Vonnegut's novel

The Evening Star
Virgin Haymarket
15, 129 mins
Maudlin sequel to Terms of Endearment

Scott Thomas's reckless aristocrat is an easier character to fathom, and her amused responses give many scenes a prickly edge. But she is scarcely someone for us to warm to. For the human touch we must turn to Juliette Binoche, jostled to one side by Minghella's busy script as the French-Canadian nurse Hala, who finds her own salvation bonding with the charred patient in Tuscany.

Navim Andrews's Kip, the Sikh officer who defuses bombs and becomes her lover, is marginalised even more: Minghella cannot find room for everything from Ondaatje's 300 pages, even when backed by the American producer Saul Zaentz, renowned for his zeal in filming unfilmable novels.

"It is epic cinema of a personal nature," Minghella says. "Tiny details on a big canvas." An ambitious aim, this. The ordering of those details, and the balancing of the big and small, is difficult enough even for experienced directors: Lean himself fell down with *Ryan's Daughter*. No wonder that *The English Patient* works in bits and pieces: a splendid stretch here, a hollow spot there, with potential glories squashed in between.

The film's obvious flaws, however, have done nothing to stop American critics going all rhapsodic. Listen to Richard Corliss in *Time* magazine: "This, you realise with a gasp of joy, is what movies can do ... a work of art to break your heart." Then there are those 12 Oscar nominations, stretching all the way from Best Picture, Director, Actor and Actress to Best Sound and Costume Design.

Over on this side of the pond, the film is being championed as a British affair, although it was mounted and funded entirely by Americans, and shot by an international crew in Italy and Tunisia.

The hoop-la seems so out of proportion to the film's actual achievements that one suspects *The English Patient* is being valued almost as much for what it is not as for what it is. There are no galactic invaders. No grimacing superstars. No MTV-style frenzy. Characters do not talk 'hood argot or slacker-speak: Almásy's own cultural baggage ranges from the 1930s popular songs rattling round his head to the thoughts of Herodotus. You can take your brain to *The English Patient* and you will not be insulted. Your eyes will not be offended either. This scarcely makes Minghella's film the best in the world; it just makes it loom large.

The absorbing **Mother Night** also wrestles with a famous book, from the pen of Kurt Vonnegut Jr. The hero, played by Nick Nolte, is an American writer, snuggling down to married life in Nazi Germany ("I'm not a political man — I'm an artist"). Approached by the American War Department in the twinkling form of John Goodman, he agrees to masquerade as a Nazi sympathiser and broadcast anti-Semitic talks larded with coded messages.

The war ended, his wife dead, he lives in sorrowful isolation in New York until white supremacists anoint him their hero, and Israel makes moves to try him for war crimes. "We are what we pretend to be," Vonnegut warns. "So we must be careful about what we pretend to be."

This intriguing and thoughtful tale slips disconcertingly between comedy and drama, coming closest to black farce when the Iron Guard of the White Sons of the American Constitution — a dilapidated bunch — clamber up steps to meet their hero in his Greenwich Village hideout.

Keith Gordon, the actor turned director, does nothing to ease us over the story's jolts, and limits his cinematic embellishments to a few strong images and a use of monochrome for the scenes of Nolte in prison. But he deserves respect for his careful treatment of difficult material, and draws the best from his cast. Nolte is excellent as the bemused writer caught in the wheels of history, while Goodman, Sheryl Lee and Alan Arkin all stand out in Vonnegut's parade of devious humanity.

People can be divided into two groups: those who loved and cried their way through *Terms of Endearment* 13 years ago, and those, like me, who blanch at the memory. **The Evening Star**, based on another Larry McMurtry novel, was not made for us. For it brings back Shirley MacLaine's Aurora Greenaway for more family fun and heartache, following years of bringing up the children of her late daughter (played in the original by Debra Winger). And it places in the director's chair Robert Harling, writer of the equally insufferable *Steel Magnolias*.

Since Harling lacks the skill to slap the material into workable shape, every ingredient lies cruelly exposed, from artificial romance, ungainly dialogue ("You spray this house with happiness repellent") and a redundant cameo appearance by Jack Nicholson, to the most outrageous sick-bed melodrama. To survive *The Evening Star* you need a cast-iron stomach, or blinkers.

"It is epic cinema of a personal nature," Anthony Minghella says. "Tiny details on a big canvas" — and even Juliette Binoche is jostled to one side in *The English Patient*

And now, British patients

The databank of simile and metaphor that journalists frequently raid tends to be plundered as never before when the subject of the BBC's coverage of a general election is raised. Walking on glass, treading on thin ice and tightrope acts are all invoked, and not without reason.

Already the Conservatives, via Charles Lewington, the main Central Office spokesman, are getting their retaliation in first. But every polling organisation that asks about such matters finds that the public thinks the BBC favours the Tories, and every Tory thinks the BBC is a nest of socialists.

The focus of attacks on the BBC, which I think is unbiased and balanced almost to a fault, will be related to current affairs programmes which, when the election campaign starts, are obliged under the BBC guidelines to give equal time to each of the three main parties on every issue.

RADIO

However these strictures do not apply to comedy. Take, for example, the new series of Trust, which began last night on Radio 4. *Trust* is a very amusing satirical sitcom set in the Bottomley Memorial Hospital. In the first episode a nurse says that bunk beds are "a great idea, but maybe we shouldn't put patients on drips in the top one", and the hospital manager, who buys dying people at "operations auctions", has a new scam whereby they are not actually operated on, but are charged for as if they have been.

Lest anyone at Central Office reads this and decides to call the BBC, I shall vote for the Monster Raving Referendum Liberal Green Build More Motorways Party at the election if *Trust* is taken off the air. The notion that anyone's vote would be influenced by half-an-hour of comedy is an insult to the electorate.

Trust's writer, Wendy Lee, knows of what she speaks: she has suffered a chronic illness for years and will have heard enough during long hospital stays to base her fictional exaggerations on the real thing. The performers, who include Nerys Hughes, Margi Clarke and Keith Allen, clearly have their hearts in the script.

PETER BARNARD

'Rich in texture'

Every week, young film fans discuss some of the latest releases ...

SNAP VERDICT

☐ ***THE ENGLISH PATIENT***

Damian Samuels, 19: Although it will probably pick up a handful of Oscars, the story is extremely dull and very overrated.

Robert Peter Hunter, 20: Beautifully crafted and wonderfully played. The production is rich in texture, and its direction is refined to the point of understatement. Worth every nomination.

Gregory Cooper, 21: An extraordinarily glorious film that will stay with you for a very long time.

Dominic Lynch, 18: Full of intrigue and highly emotive, but a tad glossy.

☐ ***THE EVENING STAR***

Damian: Unlike *Star Wars* or *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, some films should not be made into sequels. Give it a miss if you are a *Terms of Endearment* fan, because you will be bitterly disappointed. It's sickly sweet.

Robert: Some sequels are not worth waiting for. This is dull at best and far, far too long.

Gregory: A good ensemble cast do well in this bitter-sweet comedy, led by the always fabulous Shirley MacLaine.

Dominic: MacLaine gives a wonderful performance in this entertaining but ultimately disappointing sequel. Let sleeping dogs lie.

Murdered by critics

A Hollywood movie about Lorca's death has aroused Spanish wrath

Federico García Lorca, the homosexual left-wing poet who was murdered by Catholic thugs in the run-up to the Spanish Civil War, is stalking his native land once more — to the undisguised chagrin of Spain's self-appointed cultural commissars.

Lorca, whose death was one of the most poignant episodes in 20th-century Spain, has returned not as a pukka Andalusian with the shiver of flamenco in his speech, but as a slick "Hollywood Latino". He is back in the film *Death in Granada*, based loosely on the poet's own story, and is played by the (emphatically non-homosexual) Cuban-American heart-throb Andy García.

The critics in Spain have panned the film, made by the Puerto Rican director Marcos Zurinaga. Their language, however, has been a trifle intemperate. One reviewer described it as "*una Americanada*", which was intended to mean "Yankee drivel".

The film, shot in Granada and Puerto Rico, has also been attacked for its English dialogue, and here perhaps the critics have a point. The short, sharp rhythms of Lorca's poetry — his celebrations of demotic gypsy speech — have always translated appallingly into English, and Andy García's impassioned declamations are a poetic embarrassment.

But the critics are guilty of one major sin, that of taking the film too seriously. As Zurinaga has said till he was *azul* in the face, the film is only a personal interpretation of Lorca's last days, and of the mysterious circumstances of his murder. "The film is a thriller, for God's sake, not a documentary." The Spaniards, than whom there is no race more pompous, have failed to see his point.

Enter Ian Gibson. The Irish-born historian, who has written the definitive biography of Lorca, has this week dashed an angry letter off to the newspaper *El País*, putting his Hispanist's boot into the critics for sticking their knives into *Death in Granada*.

Accusing the critics of being ignorant and xenophobic, Gibson, who advised Zurinaga closely while the film was being made, stands up belligerently for the Hollywood Lorca and for the film-maker's right to interpret the poet's messy death in the way he thought fit.

The Irishman's voice is a respected one in Spain and his words will find many eager takers. The critics, however, have already inflicted their damage, and box office managers across Spain are probably rueing the fact that Gibson waited so long before giving vent to his splendid spleen. Hardly anyone wants to see the *Americanada* now.

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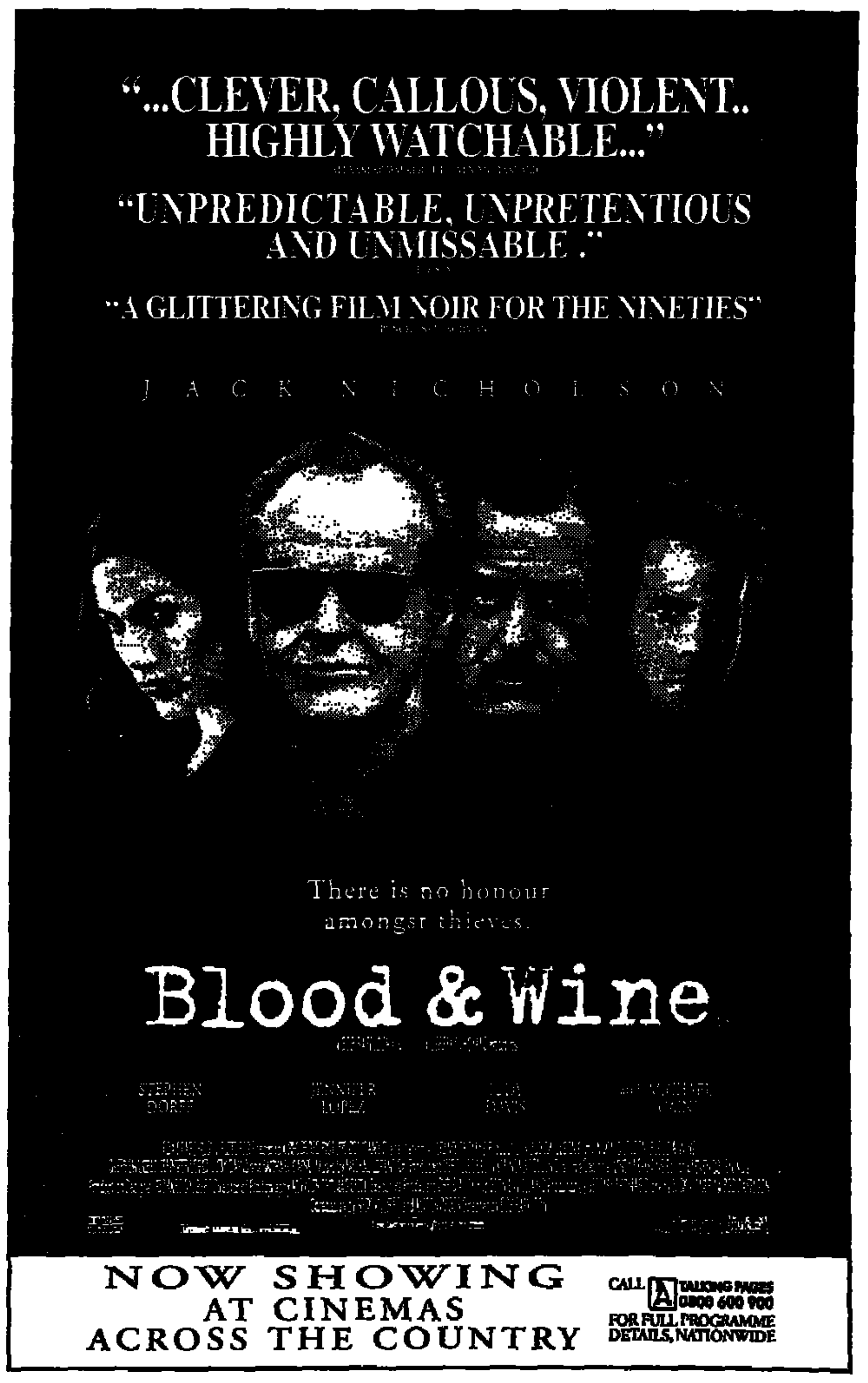

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Fruitful meeting: Roald Dahl's *James and the Giant Peach* comes to the small screen

■ NEW CDS

Iona Brown directs an attractive collection of Scandinavian string music

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

LONDON

BADFINGER After the success of last year's "Four Corners" season, this year's programme allows a fortnight's run for each of three plays. Kicking off is Wales's Thin Language Theatre Co with Simon Harris's surreal nightmare set in a junk shop, directed by Michael Sheen.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm. Until March 22

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OSCAR The first revival of Michael macLiammoir's dramatic biography *since the man's* death in 1975. Performed now by Simon Callow, directed by Patrick Garland.
Savoy, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888). Previews begin tonight, 8pm. Opens March 18, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. Until May 10.

STRAVINSKY ET AL The **BBC Symphony Orchestra** under conductor Andrew Davis performs music by Stravinsky (Festival Hall, 7.30pm). The programme includes *Divertimento*, *The Fairy's Kiss*, Violin Concerto (soloist Kyoko Takezawa), *Aldous Huxley Variations* and Symphony in E flat. At 7.45pm in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, **Trio Fontenay** offers a programme of music by Haydn, Brahms and Schubert, as part of the International Chamber Music Season.
South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242) ⓢ

ELSEWHERE

GLASGOW: Julie Saunders plays the feline, Robert David MacDonald and Mark Bazeley are father and son in **Cat on a Hot Tin Roof**, Tennessee Williams's gripping drama of family strife in the Mississippi Delta. Directed and designed by Philip Prowse.
Main Theatre, Citizens', Gorbals (0141-429 0022). Previews begin tonight, 7.30pm. Opens tomorrow, 7.30pm. Until April 5

LEEDS: Jack Smethurst plays Henry Hobson in a new production of Harold Brighouse's comedy, **Hobson's Choice**. With Katherine Rogers as Maggie. Directed by Stuart Burge.
West Yorkshire Playhouse, Playhouse Square, Quarry Hill (0113-244 2111). Previews begin tonight, 7.30pm. Opens March 18, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats (March 22, Apr 2, 9), 2pm, (Apr 5), 3pm. Until April 12.

MANCHESTER The second of three concerts in the **Max Factor** series, titled "Teachers and Pupils", has an American theme. Sir Peter Maxwell Davies conducts the **BBC Philharmonic** in the world premiere of his light-hearted composition *Mavis in Las Vegas* and two works by American composers: *The Black Maskers* by Roger Sessions and the Saxophone Concerto (Simon Butterworth) by Ron Caltabiano. Maxwell Davies's *Strathclyde Concerto* (Duncan McTier, double bass) completes the programme.
Royal Northern College of Music, 124 Oxford Road (0161-273 5534). Tonight, 7.30pm

WOKING: A rising star in the dance firmament, British choreographer **Charles Linehan** presents two works at this year's Woking Dance Umbrella: *The Two Seasons and A New Ground*.
Rhoda McGaw, The Ambassadors, Peacocks Centre (01483 761144). Tonight, 7.45pm.

LONDON GALLERIES

Catto: Sam Keil (0171-435 6660) . . . **Dover Street**: Kate Malone (0171-409 1540) . . . **Gasworks**: John Dougill: Paintings and Prints (0171-735 3445) . . . **Harriet Green**: "Fired": Contemporary Print in Ceramics (0171-287 8328) . . . **Leighton House**: Vibrant Explorations: Modern and Contemporary Syrian Art (0171-602 3316) . . . **Llewellyn Alexander**: Jeremy Barlow (0171-620 1322) . . . **Pentagram**: Tony Evans (0171-229 3477) . . . **Royal Academy**: Braque. The Late Works (0171-439 7438) . . . **Tate**: Hogarth the Painter (0171-887 8000)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

☐ **BIRDY** *Northern Exposure* actor Rob Morrow joins Kevin Knight's cast in Naomi Wallace's fascinating version of the William Wharton novel: a psychologically damaged GI (Matthew Wait) believes he is a bird. Or does he?
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm

◪ **CARDIFF EAST** Kenneth Cranham, Karl Johnson, Windsor Davies in the cast of 15 for Peter Gill's new play, set on a Welsh housing estate in the 1990s.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. In rep

◪ **HEATHCLIFF** Panned by the critics, loved by the fans, Cliff Richard's musical treatment of *Wuthering Heights* reaches London after an extensive national tour. Helen Hobson plays Cathy, with songs by Tim Rice and direction by Frank Dunlop.
Labatts Apollo, Queen Caroline Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0171-416 6050). Mon-Sat, 8pm. Until April 5

■ **IVANOV** Ralph Fiennes heads a splendid cast that includes Harriet Walter and Oliver Ford Davies, in Jonathan Kent's excellent production of Chekhov's first produced play.
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Sat, 3pm. Until April 5

◪ **LIVE & KIDDING** Maureen Lipman presents herself for a season of humourology and many another ology.
Duchess, Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 3pm. Until April 5.

☐ **THE POSITIVE HOUR:** Margot Leicester as a carefully unflustered social worker, with Path Love, Robin Soans in perceptive April de Angelis play, co-produced with Out of Joint. The caring liberal middle-classes fall apart on all fronts.
Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (0171-722 9301). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 3.30pm.

☐ **THE SCHOOL FOR WIVES** Peter Bowles both touching and comic as Molière's deluded hero. Eric Sykes excellent as his fickle-fingered servant. Peter Hall directs.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, and Sat, 5pm

◪ **THE SEAL WIFE:** Attic Theatre Co celebrates its tenth year with Sue Glover's haunting play, part folk-tale, part contemporary love story. Directed by Jenny Lee, designed by Alison Darke, the team who helped to make Glover's *Bondagers* so memorable.
Wimbledon Studio, 103 Broadway, SW19 (0181-542 6141). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Until March 15.

☐ **WAKING:** Soho Theatre Co's first production at their new premises (still being built). Lin Coghlan's play set in an Irish heatwave exacerbating the tensions between three generations of a family. Directed by Abigail Morris.
Soho Theatre Company at 21 Dean St, W1 (0171-420 0022). Mon-Sat, 8pm

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Buddy**: Strand (0171-930 8800) ☐ **Cats**: New London (0171-405 0072) ◪ **Grease**: Cambridge (0171-494 5080) . . . ☐ **Jolson**: Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) . . . ☐ **Martin Guerre**: Prince Edward (0171-447 5400) . . . ☐ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (0171-836 1443) . . . ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) ◪ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-416 6054) . . . ◪ **Sunset Boulevard**: Adelphi (0171-344 0055) ◪ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **BLOOD AND WINE** (15): Seedy adventures of wine merchant Jack Nicholson. Stylish potboiler from director Bob Rafelson.
Odeon Haymarket (0181-315 4212) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

IRMA VEP: Hong Kong star gets in deep water shooting a French film. Playful oddity from director Olivier Assayas, with Maggie Cheung.
Everyman (0171-435 1525) **ICA Cinema** (0171-930 3647)

◆ **JERRY MAGUIRE** (15): A sports PR agent gets a conscience. Enjoyable, if overlong comedy, with Oscar-nominated Tom Cruise.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Empire** (0990 888990) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **UCI Whiteleys** ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ⓢ (0171-434 0031)

NORMAL LIFE (18): Ashley Judd and Luke Perry spin out of control. Stark crime drama from director John McNaughton.
ABC Piccadilly (0171-437 3561) **NFT** (0171-928 3232)

SWANN (15): Local Canadian poet fuels a mystery. Glum drama with Brenda Fricker, Miranda Richardson. Director, Anna Benson Gyles.
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-836 6279)

CURRENT

◆ **THE CRUCIBLE** (12): Weighty version of Arthur Miller's play about 17th-century witchcraft, with Winona Ryder, Daniel Day-Lewis and, best of all, Paul Scofield. Director, Nicholas Hytner.
Barbican ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Leicester Square** (0181-315 4215) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

◆ **FIERCE CREATURES** (PG): Broad comedy in an English zoo, from John Cleese and *A Fish Called Wanda* team. With Kevin Kline, Jamie Lee Curtis. Director, Robert Young.
Empire (0990-888 990) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **UCI Whiteleys** ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ⓢ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **MICHAEL** (PG): Ragged, indulgent romantic fable saved by John Travolta's starring role as an angel. With William Hurt and Andie MacDowell.
Odeons: Kensington (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **UCI Whiteleys** ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

◆ **RANSOM** (15): Intermittently absorbing kidnap drama, with Mel Gibson, Rene Russo and Gary Sinise.
Odeons: Kensington (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

◆ **SHE'S THE ONE** (15): Amiable family comedy from Edward Burns, director of *The Brothers McMullen*. With Cameron Diaz and John Mahoney.
Odeons: Kensington (0181-315 4214) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** ⓢ (0990 888990) **UCI Whiteleys** ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

Juicy adaptation of Dahl classic

NEW ON VIDEO

Fresh fruit: *James and the Giant Peach* is an excellent adaptation of Roald Dahl's first book for children

■ JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH
20th Century Fox, U, 1996

MISTREATED James finds his feet in an oversize peach voyaging across the Atlantic. Excellent version of Roald Dahl's first book for children, made with the stop-motion animation technique by the team behind *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. Among the voices, David Thewliss's lugubrious tones make a perfect fit for the pessimistic Glow-worm, and Richard Dreyfuss's bumptious squawk suits the wisecracking Centipede. Randy Newman's songs are bland, but they service the story and underline the gentle points about the need for love and acceptance. To rent or buy.

■ ANTONIA'S LINE
Guild Pathé, 15, 1995

ENSCONCED at her lovely pink farmhouse in a small Dutch community, Willeke Van Ammelrooy's statuesque Antonia collects an extended family of oppressed souls taking shelter from male brutality or strait-laced society. This feelgood movie from *feminist* Marleen Gorris has made friends around the world and won last year's Oscar for Best Foreign Film; though you have to be very indulgent to overlook the wobbly script and lack of dramatic highlights. To rent or buy.

■ LA MADRE MUERTA
Tartan, 18, 1993

A CRIMINAL kidnaps the mute teenager who saw him murder his mother. Spanish director Juanma Bajo Ulloa has talent, no doubt: you can tell from the brazen images, the crisp black humour and gothic atmosphere. But the characters' impenetrability and the unpleasant violence cast a pall. Karra Elejalde displays a chilling presence as the murderer with a massive Oedipal complex, but the film is finally too perverse for its own good.

■ THE CROSSING GUARD
Buena Vista, 1996, 1995

A GRIEVING father (Jack Nicholson) plots to avenge himself on the drunk driver, just released from prison, who killed his seven-year-old daughter. Sean Penn's second film as director is heavy stuff, though you have to admire him for using his muscle to make modern Greek tragedies with limited appeal. And if his directorial ambitions exceed his talent, he knows how to draw on the talents of others, such as Nicholson, David Morse and Anjelica Huston. Despite yourself, you keep on watching. Available to rent.

GEOFF BROWN

NEW CLASSICAL CDs: Fresh airs from Norway; Christophers meets Carver; Bartoli doubled

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ GRIEG/NIELSEN
Music for Strings
Norwegian Chamber Orchestra/Brown
Virgin VC 5 45224 2★★★, £15.49

THE string family may have provided the chief folk instruments in 19th-century Norway, but Grieg's best-known works for string orchestra were actually arrangements by him of songs and piano pieces. Most popular of them all is the *Holberg Suite*, originally for piano solo. It is far better known, however, in his version for string ensemble made the following year, and that is how it is heard in this attractive collection from the Norwegian Chamber Orchestra under Iona Brown.

Both here and elsewhere — notably *Norwegian*, the first of the Two Melodies, Op 53 — the characteristic Norwegian dance rhythms are strongly marked out, giving the readings a fresh, bracing, open-air quality. Yet there is room for tenderness and passion too where required. The first of the Two Norwegian Airs, Op 63 (*Popular Song*) and the familiar *Last Spring* (from Two Elegiac Melodies, Op 34) are particularly moving.

Carl Nielsen's prentice work, the *Little Suite*, Op 1, is not without charm, but it lacks the emotional weight of the other piece included here, *At the Bier of a Young Artist*.

VOCAL

Hilary Finch

■ ROBERT CARVER
Mass: Dum sacrum mysterium
The Sixteen/Christophers
Collins Classics 14782★★★, £14.49

THE Scottish composer Robert Carver wrote for a late medieval court which rang with polyphonic song until the Battle of Flodden put an end to James IV and his patronage of music at the Chapel Royal. Carver's early mass *Dum sacrum mysterium*, thought to be composed in 1513, was "in honour of God and St Michael"; but its typically slow harmonic rhythms and its cloudscape of shifting sonorities, fitfully lit by a shaft of high soprano light, also make perfect Lenten entertainment.

The Sixteen — just 12 of them in this case — hold their austere lines admirably steady, ebbing and flowing as duple and triple rhythms alternate, most breathtakingly at moments such as the Credo's "Deum de deo, lumen de lumine". An extraordinary 11-minute *Agnus Dei* seems to pass out of time into eternity.

Harry Christophers and his team certainly have the measure of this distinctive music, and complete a valuable disc with Carver's effulgent 19-part votive antiphon *O bone Jesu* and an anonymous *Magnificat* in the English style from the *Carver Choirbook*.

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345-023 498

OPERA

John Higgins

■ HAYDN
Orfeo ed Euridice
Bartoli/Heilmann/d'Arcangelo/Academy of Ancient Music/Hogwood
L'Oiseau Lyre 452 668-2 (2 CDs)★★ £29.99

HAYDN'S version of the Orpheus legend was commissioned for the King's Theatre, Haymarket, but performed neither there nor elsewhere in his lifetime. Posterity has treated it little better: too much competition from Monteverdi onwards perhaps.

L'Oiseau Lyre sees it as a vehicle for Cecilia Bartoli, who on record gets a chance to sing both Euridice and the role of Genio, a sibylline oracle who gives Orpheus advice which, fatally, he fails to take. The two ladies meet briefly in Act IV, so doubling up is not possible on stage. Bartoli gets a chance to sing two of Haydn's most spectacular arias in very different style.

Euridice, bitten by the serpent, has a death scene in which Haydn has the poison coursing through her veins. Bartoli shows the most exceptional voice control and range of pianissimos during the four minutes it takes her to expire. As the Oracle she has a chance to display coloratura fireworks recalling the Queen of the Night, created by Mozart just before Haydn started work on *Orfeo*.

Uwe Heilmann, as Orpheus, is well able to calm savage beasts with his top notes. Christopher Hogwood draws highly committed playing from his large AAM orchestra and vigour from his small chorus. Next Thursday the LPO, with totally separate forces, puts on *Orfeo* at the QEH. The contrast could be interesting.

★ Worth hearing
★★ Worth considering
★★★ Worth buying

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Poet and publisher Robin Robertson has become known as the godfather of the radical Celtic school of writing

■ THEATRE 1

Lady in the Dark enjoys a fine revival at the National with Maria Friedman in the title role

THE TIMES ARTS

■ THEATRE 2

In the entertaining *Landslide* a Labour woman MP meets the crusty Tory whom she has just unseated

■ TOMORROW

In the Friday pop pages: a profile of Michael Franti, and reviews of all the new CDs

LITERATURE: **Jason Cowley** meets Robin Robertson, Scotsman, poet and publisher with a new-wave mission

Prickly flower of Scotland

GILL ALLEN

Robin Robertson favours experimental writers who "are drawn to the darker side of life"; his own poetry turns constantly to the sea

The Godfather of Scottish literature, the uncrowned king of Britlit — epithets cling to the poet and publisher Robin Robertson. He is one of the most highly regarded editors in London, who discovered and nurtured a generation of remarkable, unorthodox talents including James Kelman, Irvine Welsh, Duncan McLean, Alan Warner and Alison (A.L.) Kennedy.

Resolutely Scottish, Robertson favours *experimental writers*, vernacular voices from the underground, speaking in a disturbed demotic. He rejects any suggestion that they form a school or coterie, but concedes that his authors are united by "their complete rejection of London as a cultural and linguistic centre". They also work authentically in "their own idiom, and are drawn to the darker side of life".

Of that there is no doubt: the novels of McLean and Welsh, for instance, contain some of the most harrowing scenes of violence and sexual humiliation in contemporary fiction. Another Robertson dicovery, the young Londoner John King, specialises in football hooliganism. The energy and extremism of these writers have chimed with the rave generation for whom the book has *hitherto appeared too slow a form.* Welsh's novels circulate at raves and nightclubs as if they were *samizdat*; his collection of stories, *Trainspotting*, has sold something like 750,000 copies, a figure more usually associated with a pop record.

This is a source of pride for Robertson. "I have an evangelical feeling about the kind of publishing I'm engaged in because many of the people reading Welsh and King haven't read fiction before," he says.

> ‘I think English fiction is moribund, dead on its feet’

What is significant about Robertson's list is how few English writers there are on it. "I think English fiction is moribund, dead on its feet," he says. "Most of the work I receive from English writers is stultifying, curtailed and usually like something else. No one is trying anything new. A lot of it is set in the past. I hope the emergence of the new wave of Scottish and Irish writers will encourage people in England to start writing about the present, about their own immediate lives and experiences in a way that is vital and alive."

Pressed to name a contemporary English writer he admires, Robertson can think of only one: Adam Thorpe. Martin Amis he considers to be "a better journalist than novelist"; and other leading English novelists are dismissed with a sneer. There is, of course, a political subtext to all this: Robertson insists *that Scottish literature is exciting* precisely because Scots have been radicalised by what he calls feelings of disenfranchisement. The English, by contrast, are hamstrung by convention and the weight of the past.

"I don't want to overstate the case," he says, "but for 17 years the Scots have been yoked, by central government, to an English political system they utterly reject. This is bound to cause resentment, and a sense of frustration born out of a voice not being heard."

There is nothing resentful in Robertson's first collection of poetry, *A Painted Field*, however. The son *of a Presbyterian minister, he grew* up in Aberdeen. The desolate landscape of his boyhood mirrors that of his poetry. He is drawn to themes of alienation and loss. A woman burns a name into her arm with a cigarette. A traveller dreams of Aberdeen after having emotionless sex with a chambermaid in a Frankfurt hotel. A solitary walker stumbles on a decomposing horse, its skull "fizzing with maggots".

But it is the North Sea that is the true subject of the book. The poems abound with the screech of gulls, the "fat slap" of waves and the threat of sudden storms. In *Fugue for Phantoms*, the sea throws up the swollen *bodies of drowned fishermen, their* "skin gone to curd, and worn now like a fragile dress/water behind the eyes like the insides of oyster shells".

Although Robertson, 41, has lived and worked in London for more than 15 years, he seldom writes about the city. "If you grow up in a strong environment it leaves an indelible impression on you. I used to work as a lifeguard and the memory of the sea, of vulnerability in the face of something enormous never leaves me. I remember the smell of the herring catch as it came in every morning."

Poetry enthrals, fascinates and torments Robertson. He would like *to have more time to write it.* But the noise and bustle of London is a distraction, and so are his two young daughters. He works slowly, *meticulously — the notes he made* while researching his long narrative poem, *Camera Obscura*, form a pile six inches high. He accepts he will never be as prolific as, say, his friend Irvine Welsh, who wrote his novel *Marabou Stork Nightmares* in four weeks, and that poetry will always lose out to publishing.

"I'm afraid that this is my life's work," he says of *A Painted Field*. "Pathetic really, isn't it?" Pathetic? For once this poet of rare precision settles for the wrong word.

● *Robin Robertson will be reading from* A Painted Field *(Picador, £6.99) at 7pm tomorrow at Waterstones, East End, Edinburgh*

Dutch treat

CONCERT

Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra
Barbican

THERE is no doubt that the B minor Mass is Bach's masterpiece, yet the question of whether it was conceived for a particular performance remains a grey area in Bach scholarship. There is equally no doubt as to how effective, indeed, how overwhelming the work is in performance. This was certainly the case with the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra's superb account at the Barbican under the direction of its founder, Ton Koopman.

At first I was not convinced. The opening *Kyrie* was expansive — and very beautifully sung by the Amsterdam Baroque Choir — but it seemed slightly unfocused. The steady tempo seemed a touch uncomfortable: the meticulous attention to phrasing created a halting feel. But as the evening wore on, everything began to fall into place, and the flow became more natural. Koopman's overall interpretation is gentler, less ostentatious, than some, but has an inner strength that builds effectively to the cathartic final chorus.

At the same time he brings a marvellous lightness of touch to the faster sections. The *Et Resurrexit Tertia Die*, for example, was almost a scherzo: playful and dancy, exuding the infectious joyfulness of the setting. This is perhaps Koopman's real forte, and things often went best when he was directing from the keyboard with the bubbly energy that is his hallmark.

This is not to say that there were not moments of more expressive intensity, as with the chorus *Et Incarnatus est* or the *Benedictus* with, for me, the ideal combination of Wilbert Hazelzet's limpid and seemingly effortless flute playing, tenor Paul Agnew and rich support from the continuo cello of Jaap ter Linden.

Soprano Ruth Ziesak is, like Agnew, ideal for Bach, though the purity of her tone blended less effectively with the strikingly darker hues of the Polish alto Bogna Bartosz. She has made singing Bach an important part of her career, and I shall remember her *Agnus dei* for some time to come.

Tess Knighton

Sophisticated lady sings the blues

Singing with the shrink: James Dreyfus, Maria Friedman and Charlotte Cornwell in *Lady in the Dark*

THEATRE

Lady in the Dark
Lyttelton

A FREUDIAN musical, largely occurring in a psychoanalyst's office? That conjures up fantasies of a wincingly neurotic collaboration between Stephen Sondheim and Woody Allen or, more fancifully, one of O'Neill's big Oedipal dramas undergoing the Rodgers and Hammerstein treatment.

Yet 55 years ago *Lady in the Dark* — book by Moss Hart, music by Kurt Weill, lyrics by Ira Gershwin — had a good, long run on Broadway. The critic Harold Clurman was put in mind of "*The Threepenny Opera* diluted with Noël Coward and Cole Porter", and found the result "cleverly suave and fashionable". And by all accounts Gertrude Lawrence was magic as the fashion-mag editor who spent the evening free-associating Danny Kaye and Victor Mature, among the other males in her troubled professional life.

Maria Friedman, fronting what is claimed to he the show's belated British stage premiere, is not so charismatic: but she proves herself a splendidly versatile performer. The show is original and appealing and, as heroines go, so is she. Her Liza Elliott stalks into her shrink's eyrie radiating nervy assurance, then spins rapturously into the first of the dream-sequences that interrupt the more realistic proceedings. Dandies dance round the towering triangles and angular columns of Adrianne Lobel's set, wishfully serenading her: princes give her bouquets; great artists dedicate books and symphonies to her: the President wants her face on the three-cent stamp.

But this editor is an insecure woman. When her married lover reveals he is at last getting divorced, she doesn't want to know. A dream marriage to him ends on what Francesca Zambello, a mostly admirable director, surely should have made a more nightmarish note. Liza weeps, wrangles, snarls. And the diagnosis? It is a bit more obvious in 1997 than it was in 1941. Liza is reacting to the father who thought her plain, and the good-looking boy who snubbed her. She has been suppressing her femininity to avoid rejection.

The ending comes a bit quickly and glibly: but this still seems an unusually sophisticated Broadway musical. Gershwin is capable of quoting from Herrick, then rhyming him with derrick, and Weill's tunes, though bland at first, come into their own later. I suspect Danny Kaye made more of the celebrated patter-song, *Tchaikovsky*, than James Dreyfus, and Mature was probably more of a hunk than Steven Edward Moore, the Hollywood *wunderkind* who here falls for Liza. But the supporting cast is fine and Friedman more than fine. When she exits from a big-top fantasy-episode to launch first into Weill's celebration of vamps, *The Saga of Jenny*, and then into his splendidly robust love-song, *My Ship* — well, she had the first-night audience wishing the palm of her hand was larger, so we could spend more time in it.

Benedict Nightingale

● *This review appeared in late editions of* The Times *yesterday*

Bedroom politics

Landslide
Courtyard Theatre, Leeds

THE lights go up on a glass-roofed room, perhaps a former orangery, at stately Benton House. Wistaria hangs in festoons outside the windows. French doors open onto the terrace and a panorama of rural Lancashire. Has Andy de la Tour's play transported us back 40 years to the social comedies where Dame Thissy-That strolled in with an armful of flowers and jabbed them into vases?

No, but also yes. The play's melodramatic events take place later this year, after a Labour win turfs cynical St John Hewitt, Benton's squire, from his safe Tory seat, replacing him with Felicity Anderson, a young lass committed to compassion, profoundly pro-people. But this sort of issue drama harks back to times long gone by, when customary practice counterpointed attitudes to some national problem with a domestic difficulty, generally a tangled love affair.

I don't say this history disqualifies the play from serious consideration. De la Tour writes scenes that are clever or exciting and sometimes both, and the mechanics *of construction are* soundly planned. Sometimes I believed these characters could actually exist, though not for long. For that was the trouble with this old kind of drama. A formula is a formula, whether the new PM is Blair or Baldwin.

The public issue is whether St John has the right to do what he likes with his land. Felicity sides with his wife and son, who don't want Benton Wood chopped down to make way for luxury homes and a hefty profit. Present and past MP pass a night together. He outwits her, she learns fast, betrays a few principles and ends up the victor. But he goes one better yet.

The cast work hard to breathe life and background into their roles. Christopher Ravenscroft, ramrod stiff, persuasively suggests St John's complacency and cruelty, which allows us to accept, just, the ready obedience of his wife (Deborah Norton). Jenna Russell's Felicity catches the dishevelled look of a political innocent and the cool suavity of the ambitious animal she becomes. But never could she have transformed herself so fast so thoroughly, with the wisteria still in full flower.

On the whole Gwenda Hughes paces the actors well enough. One lesson the play teaches is never trust a politician who says: "Trust me." But perhaps we know that already.

Jeremy Kingston

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Dr John Ashworth is chairing the conference and Sir Robert May and Professor Lewis Wolpert are chairing sessions at the Royal Society's meeting on Science, Policy and Risk. *The Times Higher Education Supplement* has advance coverage tomorrow and the main speeches will be carried in sound on our net site http://thesis.newsint.co.uk from 19 March.

How are judgements about 'Risk' made when scientific facts are uncertain or contested?

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THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT

AT NEWSAGENTS FRIDAY

Robert D. Ballard on a fascinating journey to the ocean's mysterious depths

Light on the face of the deep

DEEP ATLANTIC
Life, Death and Exploration in the Abyss
By Richard Ellis
Robert Hale, £25
ISBN 0 679 43324 4

In his preface, Richard Ellis mentions the difficulties he faced in binding together his "diversely disconnected chapters on the Atlantic". He goes on to say he "started this book twice, but finished it once". In fact, he finished two books in one.

In Part One of his book, entitled *Exploration*, Ellis attempts to cover a matrix of subjects including cable laying, the Gulf Stream, a short thesis on plate tectonics, a history of deep diving, the finding of the *Titanic*, and finally, the discovery of hydrothermal vents in the Pacific Ocean. It's a rollercoaster ride in the deep abyss, providing a short summary of the important moments in deep sea exploration.

To most people, basking in the rays of the sun, the oceans of the world are only a few hundred metres deep and full of beautifully coloured fish. Yet the true ocean averages 4,000 metres in depth and its bottom waters are near freezing.

To visit this alien world is to travel to another planet in our solar system, far more difficult to explore than Mars itself. At first, our only knowledge of what might live there came from the stomachs of deep diving whales or from net-tows lowered from ships to probe this world of eternal darkness. Some biologists suggested that, owing to the absence of oxygen, nothing could live in the great depths of the sea and, for that reason, they were not worth exploring.

It wasn't until the 1930s that the biologist William Beebe and the engineer Otis Barton first descended into this unexplored world and returned to describe its many wonders. From Beebe's dives, we began to learn about the creatures that inhabit inner space.

But Beebe's bathysphere never reached the bottom of the deep ocean. For that view we had to wait almost three decades until finally, half a world away, Jacques Piccard and Don Walsh descended to the bottom of Challenger Deep in the bathyscaph *Trieste*. Peering out of their tiny viewport they were surprised to see a "flat fish" slowly swimming over a flat, featureless mud surface.

For years to come, our image of the deep ocean floor would remain theirs, a vast, featureless plain — almost desert-like in appearance — with only a sparse population of animals totally dependent for food on the sunlit layers thousands of metres above.

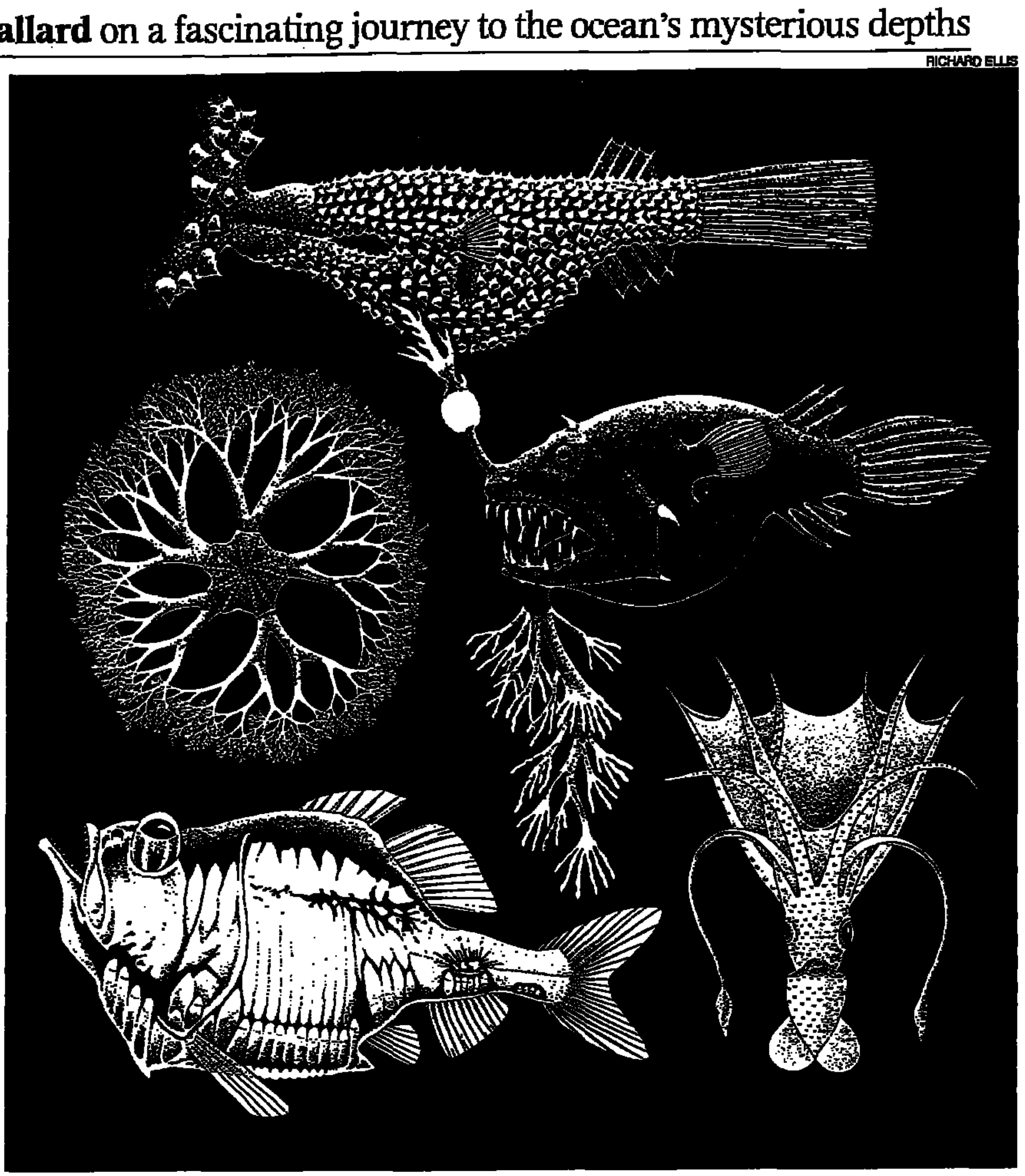
But that image all began to change in the summer of 1973, when scientists, diving in deep submersibles, first explored the rugged volcanic terrain of the Mid-Ocean Ridge. Instead of a flat mud bottom, they encountered a vast mountain range containing thousands of active volcanoes and steep sided lava flows. Just a few years later, while exploring this global mountain range near the Galapagos Islands, they discovered exotic communities of animals living around undersea hot springs and the world of marine biology was turned upside down.

Part One of *Deep Atlantic* highlights these historic moments in deep sea exploration but, I believe, far too briefly. Despite this limitation, Ellis hits his stride in Part Two when he presents the wondrously illustrated *Creatures of the Abyss*.

This is Ellis at his best. Although I am an earth scientist, like anyone who ventures deep beneath the sea I am fascinated by the bizarre animals that inhabit this world of eternal darkness. For years, I have had its creatures dart past my viewport — never truly seen, understood, nor admired. At best, my only record has been a fuzzy, out of focus photograph shot in haste. But now, thanks to the skills of artist Richard Ellis, I can take all the time I want to examine in wonderment the living faces of the deep.

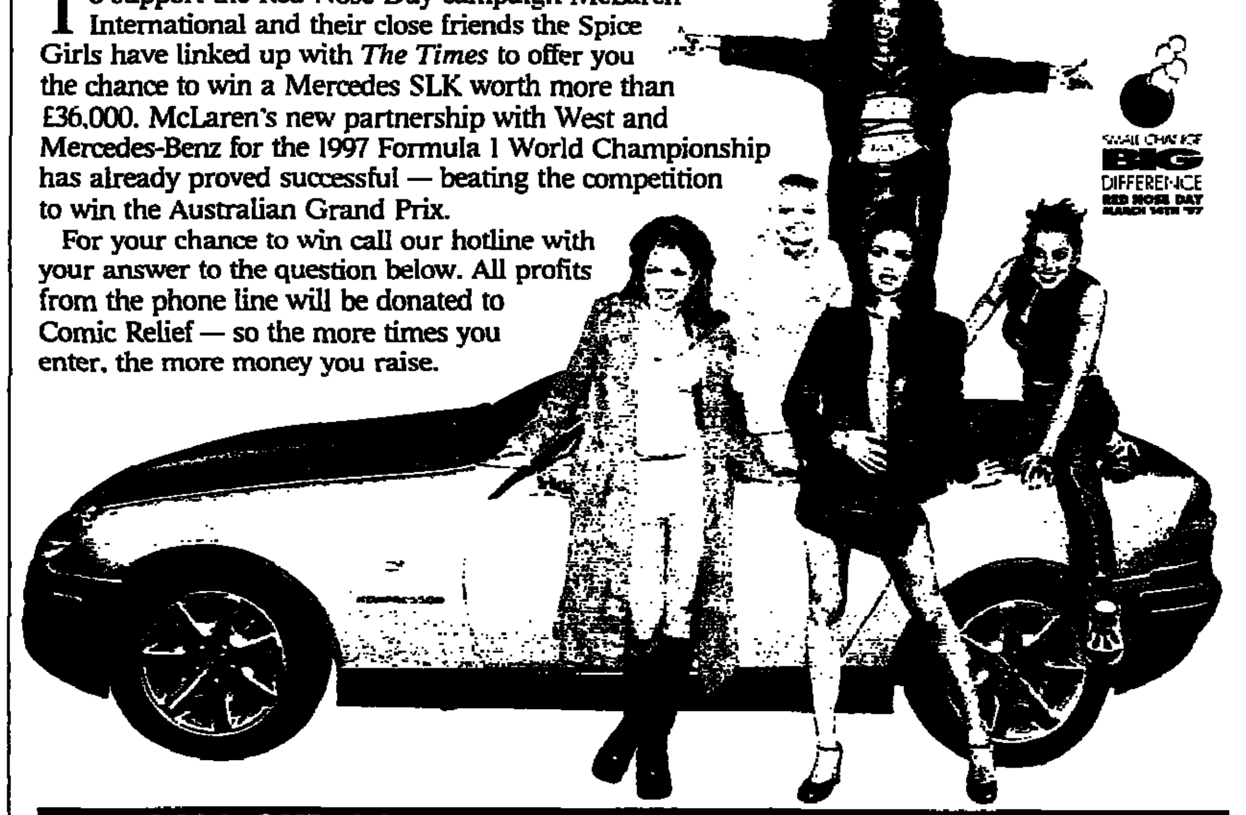
Deep Atlantic, by the same author that brought us *Monsters of the Sea* and *The Book of Whales*, is a valuable contribution not only to the public at large but to the scientific community — a fascinating account of the exploration and discovery of a world that few know about and even fewer have ever seen first-hand.

Dr Robert D. Ballard is President of the Institute for Exploration in Mystic, Connecticut; his books include The Discovery of the Titanic, *published by Orion, priced £7.99.*



RICHARD ELLIS

Strange and wonderful beasts: (clockwise from top, not to scale): a male anglerfish, *Ceratias holboelli* — four inches long to the female's four feet, it lives as a parasite on its mate, functioning only as a sexual organ; a female anglerfish of a different genus, *Linophryne arborifera* — its plumed lantern attracts its prey; the foot-long umbrella squid, *Histioteuthis bonnellii*, has light organs like mirrored searchlights all over its body; the silver hatchetfish, *Argyropelecus hemigymnus*, "with its telescope eyes looking forever upward", as explorer William Beebe wrote; the basket starfish, *Gorgonocephalus arcticus*, traps floating plankton in its web of branching arms



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McLaren

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CHANGING TIMES

Because a fire was in his head

Peter Ackroyd is drawn into the early life of a poet whose passions helped to define a nation

W. B. YEATS
A Life
Volume I: The Apprentice Mage
By R. F. Foster
OUP, £25
ISBN 0 19 211735 1

He came from a decaying Irish culture, and set himself the task of reviving it from the ruins of old faery; he was born to a Protestant family going down with the "Ascendancy" and was obsessed, all his life by the notion of racial or cultural nobility. In his private life he was often considered to be an affected snob but, in his public writings, he espoused a grand vision of a renovated people and civilisation. But was Ireland good enough for him? Could it be trusted to embody Yeats's vision? This is the theme of Professor Foster's magisterial first volume.

As a youth the burgeoning poet became drawn to Irish nationalism, but his first great enthusiasm, in Foster's account, was for the varieties of magical practice. Recent volumes of Yeatsian biography have intimated that he turned from a private to a public world, moving through a moon-struck occultism to political commitment; in fact, as Foster suggests, both tendencies existed together as one of the more paradoxical aspects of a most paradoxical man.

The early interest in Irish nationalism was inevitable; he was an intense and excitable young man who conflated his own ambition with that for his country. He created a myth of Ireland at the same time as he fashioned a myth for himself. Professor Foster gives a long and credible account of how that early enthusiasm gradually diminished, until there were occasions when Yeats spoke on behalf of the old Ascendancy; certainly he was never much in favour of Catholics whom he depicted, in one memorable passage, as "groping for halfpence in a greasy till by the light of a holy candle".

Drawn into the occult: a faked "spirit photograph" of Yeats

His interest in the occult was more permanent and profound. For much of his life he was summoning spirits and gazing into crystal balls; he was a member of the Order of the Golden Dawn, and consulted various "mediums" who were happy to introduce him to spiritual guides. Foster very wisely suggests that there was a tendency among Irish Protestants to turn to the "other" world as their own prestige began to slip away; indeed, the great writers of ghost stories come from that exilic tradition across the water.

But Yeats's interest has all the marks of an obsession. For him it seems to have been a way of acquiring power, in a highly secretive and yet most convenient fashion. All his life he was devoted to power: soon enough he was lunching with prime ministers and peers but, before his incarnation as a public man, he was on visiting terms with long-dead seers and visionaries.

W.B. Yeats: A Life is a relentlessly detailed book and Professor Foster has clearly tried to be "definitive". His approach has the great merit of placing Yeats very firmly within the context of his times; much of the poet's first 50 years was spent involved in literary organisations, political parties and the machinations of the Irish National Theatre Society with all the consequent feuds, recriminations and polemics. Foster records all of these, but there is sometimes the danger of Yeats himself becoming obscured by the dust of forgotten controversies.

Yet this is not to deny the range and achievement of Foster's work. The scholarship, as well as the criticism, are first-rate. He is particularly good, for example, in conveying the ineluctable process by which Yeats created his public and poetic identities. He was able to see his life from the outside, as it were, and thus to give it shape. He created his own system of belief and, as Foster points out, annexed "writers and philosophies into his personal pantheon". In fact his technique was all of a piece, whether he was dealing with the Golden Dawn, the Abbey Theatre, or Ireland itself; he always became attached to a larger entity, and then proceeded to assimilate it like some predatory literary amoeba.

He emphasised his Irishness, at least in England, as a way of conferring upon himself a distinctive identity; but it was also a means of defining, and marketing, what might otherwise have been an inchoate or inconclusive vision. He was of such unsure or unsettled character that he needed to bolster it with various assumed roles. A man without a fixed self can also have a genius for self-advertisement; it is a way of asserting that which otherwise might not exist. He said once that he had been "driven into public life" but he was rarely, if ever, a back-seat driver.

Foster's biography also provides proof of the essential ambiguity of the man. All his life he moved from London to Dublin, posing alternately as a Rhymer or a Republican; and then, by dividing, he conquered. He commuted between Maud Gonne and Lady Gregory, doing alternative votive dances before females who in turn represented political drama and theatrical politics. He was absent-minded but also masterful, insecure but haughty. He manifested "egocentricity and aggressiveness", as Foster notes, and suffered from what he himself called "our fierce Irish hatred"; nevertheless, he managed to strike an attitude of absent-minded unworldliness. He moved uneasily between aesthetics and politics, art and nationalism, English culture and "Irish philistinism".

Richard Ellmann, in his *Yeats: The Man and The Masks*, describes how the poet lamented that he had forgotten most of what he had once known but then promptly added: "*there must be some reason why I wanted to* write that lying sentence, for it has been in my head for weeks." And here lies the truth of the man: he existed in words rather than deeds or beliefs. His ideas were often quite idiotic, but his verse is inspired; his actual personality was difficult and in certain aspects treacherous, but his poetic persona is magnificent.

All the errancy and contradictions of his temperament were resolved in that poetry, therefore, where the slow spell of ritual words afforded him the authority he could not find elsewhere. He invented his voice in *Innisfree* and by the time his *Collected Poems* appeared in 1908 he had created a poetry both lyrical and demotic, melodic and rhetorical. It may be that, in the second part of this voluminous biography, he will be seen to find some resolution within his own life as well. But, even as it stands, the first volume will remain a central text for all admirers of Yeats.

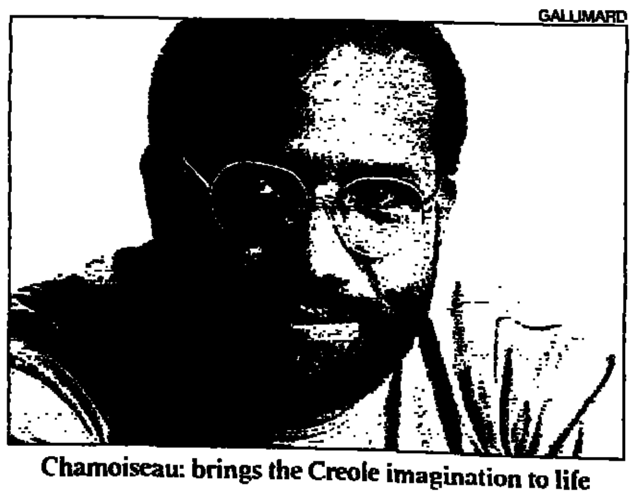
A nation built from stories

David Dabydeen

TEXACO
By Patrick Chamoiseau
Granta, £15.99
ISBN 1 86207 007 5

An urban planner inspects a hovel around the capital of Martinique with a view to razing it and relocating the slum-dwellers. He is attacked and stoned by a vagabond. From this simple beginning, Patrick Chamoiseau plunges us into a fabulous narrative history of Martinique, which leaves us as dazed by his gift of storytelling as the urban planner by the stone. His is a restlessly inventive prose, revelling in the possibilities of words. He could easily have lost control in the joy of storytelling, but Chamoiseau reins in the narrative, giving it a documentary framework and a tight internal structure demarcated by the four "Ages" of Martinique's development. The excitement of the novel lies in this tension between order and carnival, a tension at the heart of its meaning.

The first part, set mostly in the 19th century, portrays slavery as no other novel has done, not in terms of a uniform parade of black victims, but as a carnival of moods, events and people. We are given a collage of characters inhabiting masks of sorcery, rebellion and revelry. Each is individuated but each belongs to interlocking communities: there are maroons, mulattos, field-negroes, house-negroes and *chabins* (blond individuals with African features), whose various presences testify to the chaotic social and sexual history of the island.



GALLIMARD

Chamoiseau: brings the Creole imagination to life

Stories and characters gyrate and jostle for space, each noisy and lyrical, each brilliantly costumed and ragged, and we are swept from the spectacle of slavery to indentureship, to migration from the plantation, to urbanisation, then through the catastrophe of a volcano and two world wars to the present-day colonial status of Martinique. Chamoiseau's method in packing so much history into fiction is as unfathomable as it is brilliant.

What holds the book together, through all the fractures of history and language (the novel shifts between Official French and French Creole) is the narrating voice of Marie-Sophie. She is the spirit of social rebellion and revival, but she is also keeper of African memory, one who "mustered our mosaic imaginings . . . imprinting upon them a convergence — a coherence". It is Marie-Sophie who fulfils the African quest for self-betterment by setting up a squatter-township called Texaco on the fringes of the oil company's depot. The whites, who control the city's well-oiled systems of commerce, see the slum as a place of unruliness and disorder. Marie-Sophie's "slum", however, is the point at which Africans have arrived after two centuries of slavery. Here they will establish systems of self-help and interdependency. But the "slum" is more than social space. It is the location of the Creole imagination. Marie-Sophie is embarked upon nation-building, but the nation will remain chaotic without the symmetry of the imagination. So Marie-Sophie establishes a town, "Texaco", and writes a novel, *Texaco*.

Patrick Chamoiseau is an unknown in Britain, as is his island, Martinique, but *Texaco* will surely correct this. It is an epic novel, deservedly the winner of the Prix Goncourt. Given that it has sold more than 500,000 copies so far, and been translated into 14 languages (here by Rose-Myriam Réjouis and Val Vinokurow), *Texaco* will be appreciated as one of the *major* fictional achievements of our century.

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Imperial

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Would they were all at sea

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Jasper Ree

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Imperial legacy that left a nation searching for an identity

Russia does not have a national flag — only an imperial one. The tricolour which replaced the red flag on the Kremlin after the collapse of the Soviet regime was the emblem of the tsarist Empire. This symbolic irony sums up the main dilemma of Russia today: how to free itself from its own empire.

The collapse of the Soviet Union ended four centuries of imperial rule by Russia. Most of the empire's subject peoples have redefined themselves as nation states since 1991. Only Russia seems unable to do this — and perhaps cannot until it comes to terms with the loss of its own imperial role. Having ceased to be an empire, Russia must now learn to become a nation state.

This is the timely theme of Geoffrey Hosking's impressive history: the construction of the empire stunted the development of Russian nationhood. It is a persuasive argument, which perhaps it took an Englishman to make. Who else would understand what happens to a nation when it becomes an empire on Russia's scale?

Hosking begins with a survey of the growth of the imperial state from Ivan the Terrible to Catherine the Great. He then discusses how this prevented the development of national forces and institutions. The nobility was too dependent on the State, and steeped in the culture of the West to become a national leadership. There were no real burghers, in the Western sense, to create a civic culture in the towns. As for the peasants, they lived in their own separate world, cut off by their own self-governing communities, customary laws and illiteracy.

Orlando Figes

RUSSIA
People and Empire
1552-1917
By Geoffrey Hosking
Harper Collins, £20
ISBN 0 00 255536 0

The peasantry is Hosking's biggest weakness. Like Solzhenitsyn, he tends to idealise their "communal spirit" and to overestimate the real potential of their institutions as the building blocks of Russian nationhood. Perhaps this is because he has looked at the village only from a distance, and so has not noticed its internal weaknesses or violence.

But his knowledge of religion is his greatest strength, and he puts it at the centre of his argument. I have never read a better explanation of why Orthodoxy failed to integrate the Russian nation. Its promotion was the mission of the Russian Empire, based upon the idea of Moscow as "the third Rome", the only centre of the true religion after the fall of Constantinople. Meanwhile, the Church was dangerously divorced from the peasantry, who preferred their own sects to the Scriptures in a Church Slavonic which they could not read. The Bible was not translated into Russian until the 1870s — after Marx's *Kapital*.

The last hundred years of tsarist rule were a three-way struggle to define and lead the Russian nation. The intelligentsia sought to create "Russia" in cultural terms, and to recreate it through social revolution. The liberals sought to create a political nation based upon the slowly emerging civic culture fostered by the reforms of the 1860s. And the reactionaries tried to define Russia in ethnic terms, and to make it dominant within the empire and the Slavic world.

All three trends are well discussed by Hosking. But his central thesis, that empire enslaved nation, is not quite so persuasive here.

The Russian nation had surely come of age by the turn of the century. Its cultural life was one of the most vibrant in the world, and the 1905 Revolution was partly an expression of this. Hosking underestimates the political force of this emergent nationhood, compressing his discussion of the First World War and the February Revolution, when this national movement reached its apogee, into a few pages.

Nonetheless, and despite its very slightly stodgy style, *Russia: People and Empire* is the most interesting and authoritative account of Russian imperial history in English. It is a masterful synthesis, intelligent and lucid, passionately argumentative but always fair, which everyone should read who wants to understand the origins of Russia's predicament today. Let's hope there's a Russian translation soon.

Orlando Figes's A People's Tragedy: The Russian Revolution, 1891-1924, *is published by Cape, priced £25.*

View of the canal of the Moika in St Petersburg, 1815 (from *British Art Treasures From Russian Imperial Collections in the Hermitage*, Yale, £45)

Would they were all at sea

North of the literary frontier that sunders the two Americas, writers conventionally trade in realism: to the south, they tend to practise magic. If the map is not quite that simplistically colour-coded, it is thanks to rarities such as Francisco Goldman, a Guatemalan New Yorker who keeps a foot in both traditions. After his impressive debut, *The Long Night of White Chickens*, the collision between cultures has delivered a second, deeply exploratory contemplation of a fissured continent.

The Ordinary Seaman escorts a rabble of Central American workers to a remote pier in Brooklyn, where they are hired to renovate a ship which they will then crew. *The Urus* turns out to be a rotting carcass, unplumbed and without electricity, its deck porous with rust-ringed cavities, its innards a breeding ground for fearless rats. Unpaid by their evasive employer, the illegal aliens are reduced to *de facto* slavery. They come to depend on the ship's apologetic Captain Elias and his first mate, who with less and less frequency drive over from Manhattan to distribute provisions and empty promises.

One of the ordinary seamen, Esteban, chooses to brave *terra firma*. Though still a teenager, he is already a battle-scarred Sandinista veteran haunted by the corpses in his own memory, and takes to thieving booty from local delivery trucks. Sometimes the boxes contain food, but once he brings back toys — appropriately for a crew who are as powerless as children. Soon he falls in with Joaquina, a manicurist who tidies him up and takes him in. In one of his endearingly unsubtle brushes with symbolism, Goldman makes her a collector of colanders and slotted spoons. Like a utensil from her own collection, she has got Esteban out of hot water.

Jasper Rees

THE ORDINARY
SEAMAN
By Francisco Goldman
Faber, £15.99
ISBN 0 571 19101 0

Goldman swings his camera round to fill you in on the wily captain Elias and his first mate Mark. It turns out they are old college pals who always dreamt of making their fortune together. *The Urus*, a vast, immovable image of their grounded ambition, is their last, catastrophic throw of the dice. They fall out when the crew's *viejo* — its most ancient member — is scalded by oil and the slippery Elias, fearful of letting him go near a hospital, tries holistic treatments on him. Elias has done time down in the jungles of South America, dabbling with shamanism in the same spirit of imperialistic dilettantism that finds him toying with the lives of 14 blameless Central Americans. Across the ocean, the Berlin Wall topples while Goldman dispiritingly, intricately describes the protective fencing that is thrown up around the land of the free.

He also, not quite as satisfyingly, filters the narrative through the eyes of the ship visitor who will liberate the *marineros*. Despite his philanthropic intentions, even he uses them as a source of stories to take back to his European girlfriend (a more privileged foreigner, she). But what stories they are, horrifyingly based — it emerges in an afterword — on a true story.

E. T. ARCHIVE

Henry R. Morland's vision of David Garrick as Richard III (completed c 1775 and now in the Garrick Club) followed a fashion for theatrical painting which the actor helped to set

Paintings and the painter of mankind

Ian McIntyre enjoys a dramatic view of British theatrical history

The Irish actor Charles Macklin once rushed off the stage, knocked down the prompter, and returned to announce indignantly to the pit: "The fellow interrupted me in my grand pause!" The pit understood: 18th-century theatre audiences were much more interested in star performance than in the twists and turns of the plot or the finer points of direction. It is no coincidence that the mid-to-late Georgian period was the golden age of theatrical portraiture.

Hogarth's huge canvas of David Garrick as Richard III (one of 18 paintings of the actor in that role) was completed in 1745, five years after his sensational debut in the role. Garrick was quick to detect promotional possibilities, and his partnership with Johan Zoffany was of crucial importance in establishing the popularity of theatrical painting as an independent genre in England. From 1761 the Society of Artists, of which Garrick was a founding member, held annual exhibitions.

The Garrick Club's collection has grown from several hundred paintings once owned by the actor Charles Mathews. Mathews, the son of a bookseller and Wesleyan preacher, the friend of Leigh Hunt, Coleridge and the Lambs, was born in the year that Garrick retired. His paintings were acquired by the club shortly after its foundation in the 1830s. The committee of the day offered his widow an ungenerous £1,000, and her circumstances obliged her to accept, although she called it "a sad sacrifice".

PICTURES IN
THE GARRICK CLUB
A Catalogue
Compiled and written by Geoffrey Ashton, edited by Kalman A. Burnim and Andrew Wilton
Garrick Club
in association with
Unicorn Press, £95
ISBN 0 906290 14 7

The collection — drawings and sculpture as well as paintings, and now comprising more than a thousand items — was last catalogued in the 1930s. This new version was commissioned 15 years ago, and Geoffrey Ashton, the distinguished theatre and art historian, was still working on it at the time of his early death in 1991. His manuscript has been revised and edited by Andrew Wilton, Keeper of the British Collection at the Tate, and by the American scholar Kalman A. Burnim, an authority on Garrick as a director, and joint author of the monumental *Biographical Dictionary* of the theatre — one of the many publishing triumphs of the Southern Illinois University Press.

Elegantly typeset in Baskerville, and with almost a hundred fine colour plates, this is an outstanding piece of bookmaking. Zoffany's splendid portrait of Garrick as the cheerfully gouty Lord Chalkstone is used to arresting effect on the jacket. Hugh Tempest-Radford and the Unicorn Press have done the club and its collection proud.

There are, however, some careless slips in the text. In the commentary on Zoffany's famous painting of Garrick and Mrs Pritchard in *Macbeth*, for example, the line which prompts Lady Macbeth to seize the daggers from her husband — "Look on't again I dare not" — is misquoted. Nor is the assertion that the costume for Macbeth in the 18th century was traditionally a Windsor uniform correct. The Windsor uniform, for the Royal Family and members of the Royal Household (not military garb as suggested here) was the creation of George III, who came to the throne in 1760.

The descriptions of some of the more obscure paintings also leaves something to be desired. A canvas by Philip Mercier, said to be of the actress Peg Woffington, Garrick's mistress for a time, offers a case in point. The editors tell us that "the sitter contemplates the miniature of a man (said to be Garrick)". But they then quote a catalogue of Mercier's work which dates the picture about 1735-36, and observes that "the identification with Peg Woffington is unconvincing and the subject evidently fanciful". It certainly is. In 1735-6, as Professor Burnim knows better than most, Garrick was still a schoolboy in Lichfield and Woffington was just establishing herself in Dublin.

More generally, although the editorial decision not to go in for detailed interpretation is sound, the text of the catalogue listings is disappointingly austere. In some instances more space is devoted to provenance and related matters than to anything else. Under John Gilroy's oil painting of Donald Wolfit, for instance, we read: "Sir Donald is shown with grey hair brushed back and wears a dark jacket, a Garrick Club tie, and a white shirt. He became a member of the Garrick Club in 1942."

That doesn't make the old monster sound very interesting. Wolfit was important not because he wore a bit of faded pink and green polyester round his neck but because he was the greatest ham-actor of the mid-20th century. We are told it is planned to remedy this in the not-too-distant future by publishing a companion volume devoted to the biographies of sitters, but two-part catalogues don't make for convenient reading.

And what about the painters? All we are offered in this volume is a ten-page index which does no more than record their dates and list the works by which they are represented. Some of the artists — Batoni, Beerbohm, de Loutherbourg, Pellegrini, Vandergucht — led lives every bit as colourful as those of their subjects. Even if they didn't wear Garrick ties.

Ian McIntyre is at work on a new biography of David Garrick.

A hawk transformed into a dove

Raymond Poincaré's career is one of the most important in modern French history. He got going early — a deputy at 26, a minister at 33, Prime Minister for the first time at 51 (having refused the office at 38), and the youngest ever President of the Third Republic at 52.

He served from 1913 to 1920, a momentous period, and after the conclusion of his term was the first President to return to government, holding the premiership on two further occasions. In his first postwar ministry he took the decision to occupy the Ruhr when the Germans defaulted on reparation payments; in the second he stabilised the franc. Before his death in 1934 he had published his memoirs in ten volumes.

Since then very little has been written about him; only two biographies in French and none in English. Moreover, the French biographies were written before his private papers came to light in the 1970s. (They were previously throught to have been destroyed.) Now Professor J. F. V. Keiger of Salford University, using this essential new material, has produced a life of Poincaré that is not only a model of scholarship, but also remarkably fair and understanding. The book should do much to redeem Poincaré's reputation where it has been unjustly impugned, not least in France.

John Grigg

RAYMOND
POINCARÉ
By J. F. V Keiger
Cambridge University
Press, £40
ISBN 0 521 57387 4

The worst charge against him is that, as an exceptionally hands-on President in the crisis of July-August 1914, he pushed France towards war. As a Lorrainer, he is assumed to have been hawkish and revanchist, but Keiger shows that this view of him, and of his role at the time, is false. Far from being a reckless warmonger, he sought accommodation with Germany until it became clear that war was inevitable, and then did his utmost to ensure that Germany would be seen as the aggressor, that France would enter the war as a united nation, and that Britain would stand with France.

Perceiving the significance to the British of Belgian neutrality, he vetoed a proposal by General Joffre to move into Belgium in anticipation of the German attack through that country. The "*Poincaré-la-Guerre*" myth was the result of systematic denigration of him during and after the war, mainly from the extreme Left and much of it German-financed.

Keiger's measured defence is all the more persuasive in view of his candour about Poincaré's faults. On the whole he seems not to find the man very sympathetic, though we are told that his cold exterior concealed a nature which, to those close to him, was warmly affectionate.

Throughout his life he was driven by ambition and competitiveness, and he had a tendency — which the author finds "unendearing" — to parade his intellectual superiority. As a young politician he acquired a reputation for strict probity that was not wholly deserved. (He did not hesitate to use his influence and patronage as Minister of Education to secure his own election to the Academie Française.) But his worst fault — the opposite of that commonly ascribed to him — was excessive caution amounting, at times, to moral cowardice. In the Dreyfus affair he was soon aware, as a good lawyer, of the probability that there had been a grave injustice, but remained silent for a long time and did not speak out until it was safe to do so.

Very different was the conduct in that affair of Georges Clemenceau — one of many examples of incompatibility between the two men. Yet in November 1917 Poincaré turned to Clemenceau to form a government, subordinating his personal feelings to the interests of the country. Clemenceau's triumph as national leader caused him agonies of envy, and there were many disagreements between them, in which Poincaré was not always wrong. Keiger is fascinating about their strange relationship and complementary qualities. Both were great patriots, and at a moment of supreme danger they stood together.

The brass ring just out of reach

TO WRITE a satisfying biography of practising politicians was once considered a task that verged on the impossible. Recent books assessing Tony Blair, Kenneth Clarke, Michael Portillo and John Prescott suggest a revolt against that approach. Michael Crick's entertaining and balanced account of Michael Heseltine's life and career suggests once again that the effort is worthwhile.

Michael Heseltine is a rare figure in postwar politics. Crick outlines in considerable detail the means by which the ferociously ambitious Heseltine acquired his fortune. Coming down from Oxford, he embarked on an imaginative but rather haphazard career as a property developer, then abandoned that for the more glamorous world of publishing. Here again he drove himself to the edge of ruin before executing an improbable rescue via such titles as *Accountancy Age*. Michael Crick tells this tale with real gusto and rightly suggests that much of Mr Heseltine's subsequent story as a politician could be anticipated on the basis of his record as an entrepreneur.

Tim Hames

MICHAEL
HESELTINE
A Life
By Michael Crick
Hamish Hamilton, £20
ISBN 0 241 13691 1

Heseltine: Why I am the man to lead the count

But was anyone listening? Michael Heseltine in 1990

That political career is outlined carefully and with admirable neutrality. Crick stresses Heseltine's emphasis on dynamic action (and not a little self-promotion). Where that proves productive, for example his passionate evocation of urban renewal in Liverpool, Crick is swift to offer rightful praise. Where the opposite appears more accurate — the commercial failure of Concorde under his watch as Minister for Aerospace under Ted Heath — the author is no less ready to assign blame. Precisely because of this rigorous balance, Crick's biography seems set to become the standard tome on his subject.

If any single aspect of the Heseltine character is brought out by Crick it is his passion for the concept of UK Ltd, fostered by co-operation between government and big business — unlike his Thatcherite colleagues, Heseltine never displays more than the minimum necessary concern for the problems of smaller enterprises. That in turn is paralleled by his strengths and weaknesses as a politician. Numerous associates suggest, and Crick seems to concur, that Heseltine's failure to capture the ultimate prize rested on his inability to court the more humble Conservative backbencher — the political equivalent of the one-man business. As Crick concludes, that defect means the Deputy Prime Minister is left with an unsatisfying legacy as the man who removed Margaret Thatcher from Downing Street but could not put himself in her place.

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Bargains of the week — from Easter in Iceland to rambling in Italy and cut-price fares to Copenhagen

FLIGHTS

DEBONAIR has lowered fares for midweek flights between April 8 and May 1. The airline is charging a flat £39 one way from Luton to Düsseldorf, Copenhagen, Barcelona, Madrid, Munich or Rome. Book by March 31. Details: 0541 500300.

■ AFFORDABLE business-class fares are offered by Laker's Premier Business Service from March 21. Gatwick to Miami costs £1,298. Details: 01293 789000.

■ AIR Portugal has "open-jaw" excursions to Lisbon, Oporto and Faro. Prices start at £128, excluding Easter. Details: 0171-828 0262.

■ VIRGIN Atlantic to Johannesburg cost £419 return when you depart by March 20. Details: 0171-258 0280.

■ DURING April, Delta flights to Los Angeles cost £285 through Air Tickets Direct. Details: 0990 320321.

■ FLIGHTBOOKERS has New York or Boston from Glasgow for £219, excluding Easter. Details: 0141-204 1919.

HOLIDAYS

VOUCHERS offering £100 off a break to Disneyland Paris plus discounts of up to 25 per cent will be available from tomorrow to those booking overseas holidays for the next winter at Thomas Cook. Details from its shops.

■ SKIING in Verbier for a week from March 23 is on offer for adults for only £334 from Ski Esprit and includes ferry crossings, most meals and chalet accommodation. Details: 01252 616789.

■ WALKING breaks over Easter to Italy, southern Greece and Madrid are available from Ramblers Holidays. A week visiting Lake Garda and Venice is the best deal, at £475 a person, with a flight from Gatwick on March 29 and half-board accommodation. Details: 01707 331133.

■ PARIS for Easter from £145 a person with two nights' B&B and Eurostar travel is on offer from Crystal Cities. Details: 0181-241 5040.

■ ICELAND for Easter, using a flight from Blackpool on March 29, is available from Travelcade from £349 a person, including eight nights' B&B. Details: 01253 23545.

■ EASTER in Cyprus for £279 a person is on offer from Odyssey Holidays, with a flight from Luton on March 29 and a week's self-catering studio accommodation. Details: 0181-343 9090.

■ SAVINGS of 10 per cent are available for Easter week bookings in West Country cottages from Farm and Cottage Holidays. A Cornish cottage sleeping ten costs £314. Details: 01237 479698.

■ ROMAN holidays at bargain prices in April are available from Room Service if booked by March 31. Prices start at £179 a person for five nights' B&B in a central budget hotel. Flights go midweek from Luton. Details: 0171-636 6888.

■ CHINA for £665 a person for a ten-day escorted tour including the Great Wall and the Forbidden City is on offer from Bales Tours, using a flight from Heathrow on April 29. Details: 01306 885923.

GRAHAM MORRIS

Watch a one-day international during a week at the Barbados Royal Pavilion with Caribbean Expressions. Price: £1,185. Flight on April 28. Details: 0171-431 2131

HOTELS

FLORIDA hotels from as little as £17 a room a night are available from the bookings specialist Hotelshop USA. Details: 0181-995 3010.

■ A THREE-NIGHT break starting on March 28 at the Grand Hotel in Torquay, available through Superbreak Mini-Holidays, costs £195 a person half-board and includes a champagne reception, a trip to the Newton Abbot races and a "casino" night. Details: 0161-238 5257.

■ THE latest full-colour directory of the 233 members of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World consortium, including for the first time hotels in Cambodia, Portugal and Central America, costs £5, including postage and packing. Details: 01372 375116.

■ SOME cottages are still available over Easter from Rural Retreats, such as Primrose Cottage at Exbourne near the edge of Dartmoor at £327 for four nights, sleeping four. Details: 01386 701177.

■ THE Caledonian Hotel in Edinburgh has a two-night offer at £380 a room for double occupancy, including Scottish breakfasts, dinner on one evening, transfers and a half-day chauffeured tour of the city. Available through Leading Hotels of the World. Details 0800 181123.

■ AN APRIL Fool's Day special is on offer at the Grosvenor House's Café Nico restaurant with a two for the price of one deal for lunch or dinner on that day only. The menus for two are priced at £24.50 and £29.50 including service. Details: 0171-495 2275.

■ DETAILS of B&B accommodation in National Trust properties, ranging from a pub in Norfolk to a hill farm in Snowdonia, are available from the trust at PO Box 39, Bromley BR1 3XL. Send an A5 envelope with first-class stamp. Details: 0171-447 6700.

■ SEE the British Grand Prix at Silverstone in July and stay a night at Birmingham's Novotel Hotel for £170 a person, double-occupancy rate. Price includes coach transfer with guide. Booking through Goldenrail. Details: 0161-238 5206.

FERRIES

STENA LINE is offering 20 per cent off fares to Ireland if you book and pay by April 30. A new ten-day fare costs £128 return — both for a car and up to five passengers. Details: 0990 707070.

■ P&O FERRIES has a new offer on Dover-Calais of £74 — for a car and nine passengers — for any five-day return ticket if paid for by April 30. Details: 0990 980980.

■ BRITTANY Ferries has introduced 24-hour returns to France from Poole and Portsmouth, £19, and £24 on Portsmouth-St Malo — both for a car and up to nine passengers. Valid until May 15. Details: 0181-324 4000.

■ HOVERSPEED is charging £35 for a motorcycle and rider off-peak on Dover-Calais. Folkestone-Boulogne prices start at £30. Details: 0990 240241.

■ HOVERSPEED is offering breaks from £37 a person for two nights' B&B in Boulogne, based on four sharing a car, two people a room. Details: 0990 240241.

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7

Kristin Scott Thomas in *The English Patient*

Tunisia aims to cash in on Oscar film

By Steve Keenan

TUNISIA is banking on the screen appeal of *The English Patient* to win a new market for its Saharan sands. The Oscar epic, which opens in UK cinemas tomorrow, features the Tunisian oasis of Tozeur, as well as souks of the seaside resorts Sfax and Mahdia.

The Tunisian Tourist Office (TNO) is hoping the spectacular desert scenes will encourage upmarket British tourists to spend several midnights at the oasis. One travel operator is already planning an *English Patient* tour.

Last year, barely 1,000 British tourists visited Tozeur, and Tunisia as a whole has seen a decline in UK numbers from 267,000 in 1994 to 200,000 last year. This year the TNO expects a 20 per cent increase; the film is likely to attract new visitors to take desert excursions by air from Tunis or by four-wheel-drive vehicle from the resorts.

The TNO has spent £20,000 as main sponsor of the film's premiere, and has mounted a 17-city roadshow. It is also encouraging tour operators to capitalise on the film. Operators including Panorama, Cosmos, Wigmore Holidays and Cadogan already feature the southern Sahara — and Panorama plans an *English Patient* tour for winter 1997-98.

The film follows a tradition of film-making in Tunisia. Houssem Ben Azouz, TNO's UK director, says *Star Wars* and *Raiders of the Lost Ark* were filmed there.

In *The English Patient*, the relationship between the British actors Ralph Fiennes, as Count Ladislaus Almasy, and Kristin Scott Thomas (Katherine Clifton) starts in the desert, where a 36km road was specially built. Miss Scott Thomas says: "The film is not showing itself as a picture postcard; but the audience will get the beauty of the desert through osmosis."

● Film review, page 31

Cruise and ferry price wars rage

By Harvey Elliott and Steve Keenan

A PRICE war broke out on the high seas and in the English Channel yesterday as Thomson cut the cost of cruising to its lowest level and ferry rivals slashed early booking prices.

Thomson's commercial director, Steve Garley, announced prices for a holiday afloat in the Caribbean from £999 for two weeks. First-time cruisers now make up 60 per cent of passengers.

The company, which has three cruise ships and expects to carry more than 100,000 passengers this year, is positioning the 493-cabin *Emerald* in the Dominican Republic port of Santa Domingo with connecting UK flights from 18 regional airports.

Thomson is offering a one-week Red Sea cruise with visits to Egypt, Jordan and Israel. Prices for the cruise, which gives passengers the chance of seeing the Valley of the Kings, the Pyramids, Petra and the holy cities of Israel, start at £579.

Additional cruise liners coming into service have enabled prices in the Far East to fall, too, with a week at sea and a week in Phuket, Thailand, costing from £969 including flights.

At the same time early booking mania has returned to plague Channel ferry operators to the considerable benefit of Continent-bound holidaymakers.

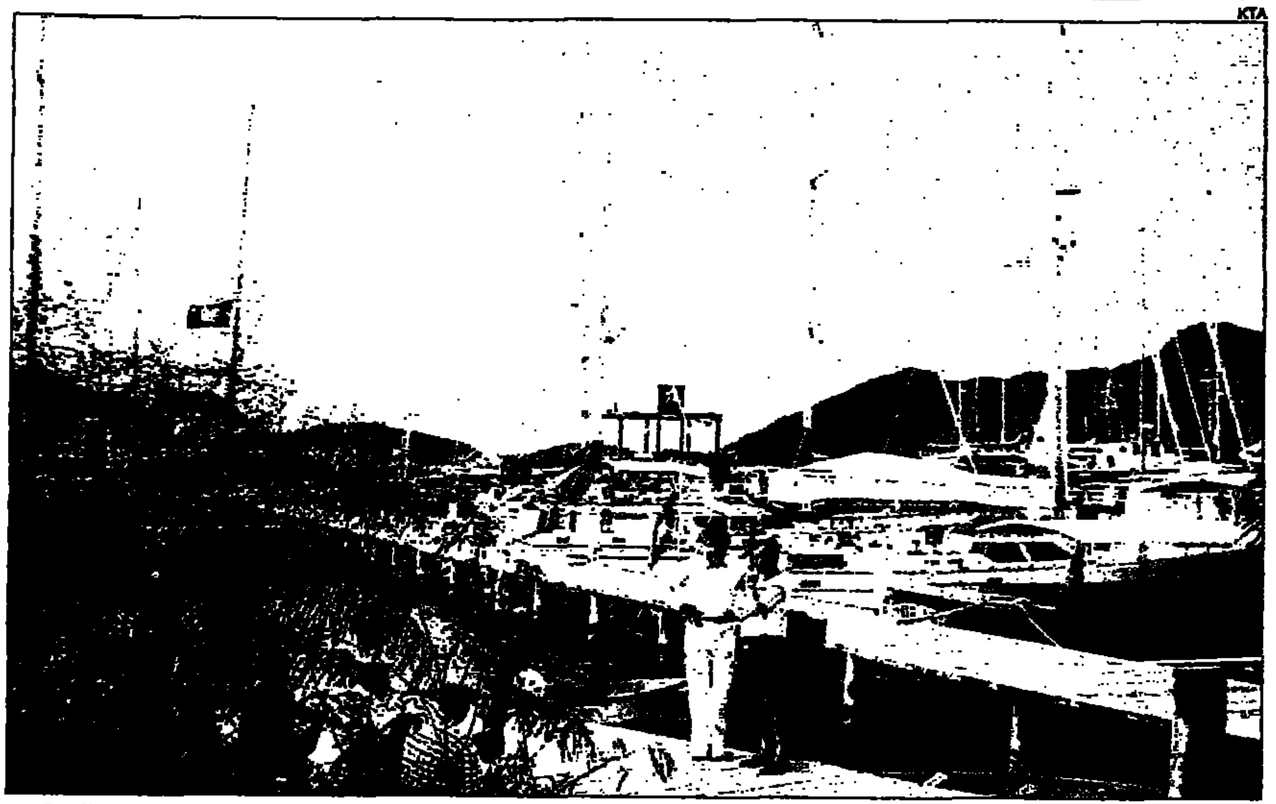
Le Shuttle and Stena Line this week followed P&O Ferries and Hoverspeed in extending advance booking offers, keeping return fares to Calais to below £100 — compared with peak season prices of more than £330 last summer. Of the five cross-Channel operators from Dover and Folkestone, only Sea France has yet to join the fray.

The uneasy truce between operators was shattered last week when the Monopolies and Mergers Commission delayed recommendations on a proposed P&O/Stena merger on the prime short sea routes to France.

With rivalry resumed, P&O is offering any 1997 Dover-Calais return for £145 until April 30, while Hoverspeed is quoting £99 on the route for bookings by March 31. Its offer on Folkestone-Boulogne is even lower at £78 for bookings by April 30. Le Shuttle has responded with an offer of £149 for travel any time during 1997 for bookings made by the end of next month.

Stena Line has also chipped in, knocking 25 per cent off brochure fares for bookings made by the same time.

While the discounts reduce lead-in prices on Dover-Calais to £89, the fares apply to crossings such as the 3am departure on October 2. Peak summer returns will cost considerably more, at £199, even with discounts.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English Harbour, Antigua, will have competition if a huge development including marinas and ferry ports goes ahead

Antigua plans 1,000-room resort

By Harvey Elliott

A CONTROVERSIAL plan to build a 1,000-room luxury hotel and golf resort on three desert islands off the coast of Antigua is threatening to end Taffy Buffton's reclusive way of life.

Major international hotel chains are in fierce competition to run the multimillion-pound development. But first they must reach agreement with Taffy — property called Cyril — and his wife Bonnie, who have lived alone on Guiana, one of the three islands involved, for more than 30 years.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda is backing the project, which will have three 18-hole championship golf courses and involve the building of marinas and ferry ports. But it also means that the Bufftons — now in their seventies — will have to move.

They couple were recruited 30 years ago by the then owner of Guiana to look after the Plantation House and tend the sheep, goats and deer. When the original owner died 15 years ago, the Guiana Island Farm company which took over agreed that the Bufftons could stay and provided them with a house and a five-acre smallholding.

"They are employees and as such do not have rights to compensation," says Ron Sanders, the Antiguan High Commissioner in London. "But in recognition of the work they have done we are prepared to offer them money to vacate the island."

Locals say that Mr Buffton is now prepared to return to his native Wales.

Locals and environmental experts claim the development will destroy wildlife on the tranquil islands of Guiana, Crump and Great Bird, and, because they on the windward side of Antigua, possibly encircle the main island in rubbish.

"We have very few details of what they plan," says Winston Derrick, editor of *The Observer* on Antigua. "Until it is debated in the local parliament next week, we will not discover exactly what is happening." Dr Rodney Williams, Minister for Tourism, Culture and the Environment for Antigua, said in London last week that the Government was determined to ensure that the development was environmentally acceptable. He said international experts had been called in to find ways of protecting the area's ecosystem.

"We want to keep the islands pristine," says Mr Sanders.

● Antigua is introducing a new law to prevent tourists from being hassled on its 365 beaches by designating certain areas in which licensed vendors can operate. Special constables with powers to arrest any intrusive traders will patrol the main beaches.

Will technology signal an end to hotel luxury?

The Travel Business

HARVEY ELLIOTT

THE NIGHT I woke in the early hours in London's Halkin Hotel and completely failed in my efforts to turn on the bedside light is etched deep in my memory.

I managed — by accident — to open the curtains, turn on the television, call the night porter and raise the bottom of the bed. But the simple task of switching on the light eluded me.

The Halkin prides itself on ensuring complete darkness in the bedroom which, it claims, guarantees a good night's sleep — until you wake in the early hours and want to turn on the light.

Then you need to know which button to press on the black consol beside the bed which, though efficient in daylight, becomes as impenetrable as the controls of the *Starship Enterprise* in the blackness of the small hours.

Last month a bigger and even "smarter" hotel opened on Park Lane. The Metropolitan is proud that its rooms have acoustic windows, three dual-line telephones, US/UK modem points, electronic Do Not Disturb signs, remote control television with satellite and cable TV channels, and — I quote from the publicity blurb — "ISDN [international services digital network] line category 5 wired".

The designers of the Metropolitan, which charges from £175 to £1,200 a night for a room, have apparently "pared away all the nonessential elements of a traditional hotel". The building is designed on the assumption that travellers no longer demand antique luxury but the efficiency of the modern office.

Not surprisingly, older hotels are watching closely.

How long will it be before similar ideas are introduced in holiday hotels around the world? Do people really want to wallow in the kind of comfort they cannot afford at home? Or are they more interested in keeping that modem switched on?

One of London's supposedly "old-fashioned" hotels is the Goring, one of the few still owned by its founding family. Yet the Goring, tucked away in a side street near Victoria station, was once considered a daring innovator when, in 1910, O.R. Goring provided a private bathroom and central heating in every bedroom.

Many people regard it as one of the friendliest hotels in London. But it does not have ISDN and its staff wear traditional uniforms rather than the snazzy outfits seen at the Metropolitan.

The growing split between traditional and what the Metropolitan calls "hip" does not stop at hotels. Airlines are introducing impersonal electronic ticketing, while emphasising their devotion to personal care and attention.

'The split between traditional and "hip" doesn't stop at hotels'

Fashion sways between Jaeger and Red or Dead for women and Chester Barrie and Jean Paul Gaultier for men.

London restaurants now appeal either to those who like Rules or those who prefer the steely efficiency of Mezzo.

Long-stay holidaymakers seek either exotic, undeveloped parts of the world or the pampered convenience of an all-inclusive hotel.

Travel is at a crossroads. Will travellers continue to demand the comforts and elegance of the past or the slick electronic efficiency of the future? The success or failure of the Metropolitan may well show which way the wind is blowing.

Palmair wins top rating

By Harvey Elliott

A ONE-JET airline from Bournemouth has apparently discovered how to please all of the people all of the time.

Every one of the 32 passengers interviewed by the consumer magazine *Holiday Which?* said that they would recommend Palmair to a friend.

It is, of course, easier to satisfy all your customers when you have to deal with only 25,000 a year compared with almost 100,000 a day who fly with British Airways.

But Palmair, which has been flying for a range of tour operators from Bournemouth, Southampton and Exeter for the past three years, was naturally rather pleased with the findings.

David Skillicorn, managing director of Palmair, which employs just 12 pilots and 20 cabin crew, said: "We've always tried to give our customers the best and we're happy to stay small and special."

Singapore remained the overall top-rated airline followed by Air New Zealand, Emirates, Virgin, Palmair, Swissair, Thai International, Cathay Pacific, KLM and Aer Lingus. Virgin was again the most highly-rated British airline.

Britannia was the favourite charter airline, with 41 per cent of its passengers saying they would definitely recommend it. At the bottom of the table was British-owned Sabre Airways which operates two Boeing 727s and two Boeing 737s from the main regional airports.

M25 heads the league for motorway jams

By Jonathan Prynn
Transport Correspondent

MORE than half a million frustrated drivers waste the combined equivalent of 29 years every day sitting in traffic jams on the M25, according to a survey of road congestion.

The London orbital motorway emerges as the most congested road in Britain in the survey, accounting for about 40 per cent of all traffic hold-ups reported nationally.

More than ten million vehicles a month are delayed on the M25 by slow-moving traffic, and the average total tailback during rush hours has increased to 80 miles.

The second worst levels of congestion are in the Midlands, with 8.6 million vehicles a month caught in jams, mainly on the M6, M5, M54 and M42. The lowest levels of congestion are in the West and East Anglia.

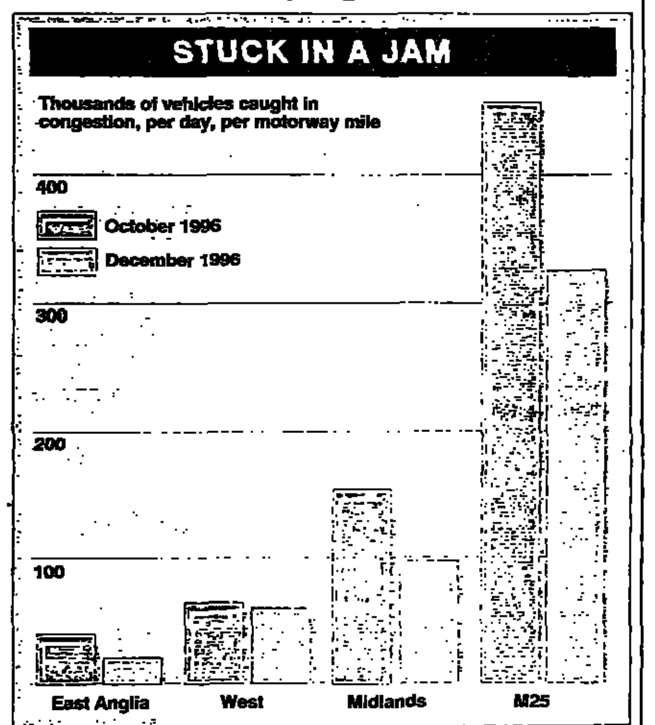
Across the country, about 1.3 million motorists a day are caught in jams, costing the UK economy £2.1 billion annually, according to the survey commissioned by Trafficmaster.

Congestion levels rose by 5 per cent last year and will double over the next 14 years, according to the survey. By 2011, the average business motorist will spend 14 days a year sitting in traffic jams.

"Demand for cars is likely to continue, but the Government will find it very difficult to impose road pricing and to increase other road taxes substantially," says Trafficmaster. "Society is likely to look towards ways that shift journeys to other transport modes, while maintaining the individuality and convenience of personal transport systems such as the car."

Edmund King, the RAC's head of campaigns, says: "The Government's own congestion maps show that the situation will get even worse if we do not take action.

"The message to all political parties is that this country needs investment in road, rail and public transport. We also need to invest in smarter ideas so that the car can play the right role in meeting our mobility needs."



Merger to create ski giant

By Bridget Harrison

CANADA's top ski resort, Whistler, is finalising a merger this month that will confirm it as one of North America's most competitive ski destinations.

The resort's skiing is spread over two adjacent mountains, Whistler and Blackcomb, which until now have had separate owners. Whistler Mountain, which was developed in the 1960s, is owned by two local families. Blackcomb Mountain, with an impressive network of pistes which were opened 20 years later, is run by Intrawest, a huge leisure group.

This month, Whistler Mountain Holdings will be merged under the Intrawest name giving the group control of what is already the largest skiing area in North America, including all mountain restaurants, pistes and ski schools.

After the merger, Intrawest is planning to spend $35 million on improving the already excellent facilities on the mountains, concentrating specifically on developing runs above Creekside, a smaller village two miles down the valley, which is linked by chair lift to the main Whistler pistes.

In the purpose-built village which has grown up between the two mountains, news of the merger has been welcomed. Local businesses hope that Intrawest's huge resources will bolster the resort's marketing clout on the international ski scene, enabling it to keep up, in particular, with Colorado's Aspen and Vail.

British tour operators are pleased too. Inghams is already planning charter flights to Vancouver for the next ski season and regards the resort as a major growth area for British skiers.

TRAVEL ON SATURDAY

Alexander Chancellor in Russia
Indonesia special
Travel in Ireland
Belgium: the joys of Antwerp, Bruges and Ghent
Paris on the cheap
Jill Crawshaw's Travel Tips

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Chateau des Tourelles 2*, Le Wast
Friendly, welcome atmosphere and superb gastronomic restaurant. £69pp (BB) - extra night £30pp.
Chateau Cocove 3*, Recques-sur-Hem
18th century chateau approx. 15 min. drive from Calais. Overlooks peaceful park and has a wine shop in the Chateau cellars. £78pp (RO) - extra night £30pp.
Chateau de la Motte Fenelon 3*, Cambrai
19th century chateau situated in 8 acres of wooded park, near the historic town of Cambrai. £78pp (RO) - extra night £29pp.
La Tour du Roy 3*, Vervins en Thierache
Former manor house which has welcomed some very famous guests from Henry IV to Francois Mitterand. £80pp (RO) - extra night £30pp.
Chateau de la Redoute Hostellerie des Trois Mousquetaries 4*, Aire-sur-la-Lys
Comfortable 19th century chateau set in a wooded park with lake and gardens. £94pp (RO) - extra night £39pp.
Chateau Hesdin-L'Abbe Hotel Clery 3*, Hesdin-L'Abbe
18th century chateau situated amongst rolling Boulonnais hills. £94pp (BB) - extra night £37pp.
Chateau Tilques 3*, Tilques
19th century chateau set in extensive grounds. £98pp (BB) - extra night £39pp.
La Chartreuse Du Val St Esprit 4*, Gosnay
Former monastery in quiet parklands, close to the village of Gosnay. £104pp (RO) - extra night £45pp.

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RACING

Martha's Son gives show of strength in Champion

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

IN A contest bristling with passion, Martha's Son swept from last place to rout the five other protagonists for the Queen Mother Champion Chase at Cheltenham yesterday. His strength was too pronounced to generate the head-bobbing that often settles this test of speed, but what the race lacked in suspense was more than redeemed by its stunning intensity.

Had it happened two years ago, Martha's Son's defeat of Ask Tom and Viking Flagship would have been wholly expected. But the little bay, undefeated in his first nine chases, has been so blighted by injury that four of his opponents were dispatched at shorter odds. To see him bound away from them was to savour the return of a prodigal son. Martha's Son had finally claimed the garlands belonging to him by right.

Such an outcome looked unlikely four fences from the finish as Martha's Son trailed a pack headed by Strong Promise, who, devouring the ground with ease, briefly threatened to turn the race into a procession. A bad blunder stopped him cold three from home, at which point the menacing shadow of Viking Flagship and Richard Dunwoody loomed up on the inside of Ask Tom.

Having manoeuvred his way to the front, Viking Flagship's fighting qualities seemed destined to assert themselves. Klairon Davis, the defending champion, was by now a spent force, but Rodney Farrant, riding his first Festival winner, had timed his bid to perfection. As Dunwoody recounted: "I had saved a bit for the finish but as soon as I saw Martha's Son alongside me I knew the game was up."

The winner's performance was all the more meritorious for his troubled preparation; this was effectively his first outing for 16 months as he had progressed no further than the second fence on his return at Kempton 18 days earlier. "No horse has had a more imperfect preparation," Tim Forster, his trainer, said. "He is a horse that makes you emotional. On the racecourse he is explosive but at home he is the sweetest horse I have had. You could take him down to Ludlow, tie him up and go shopping."

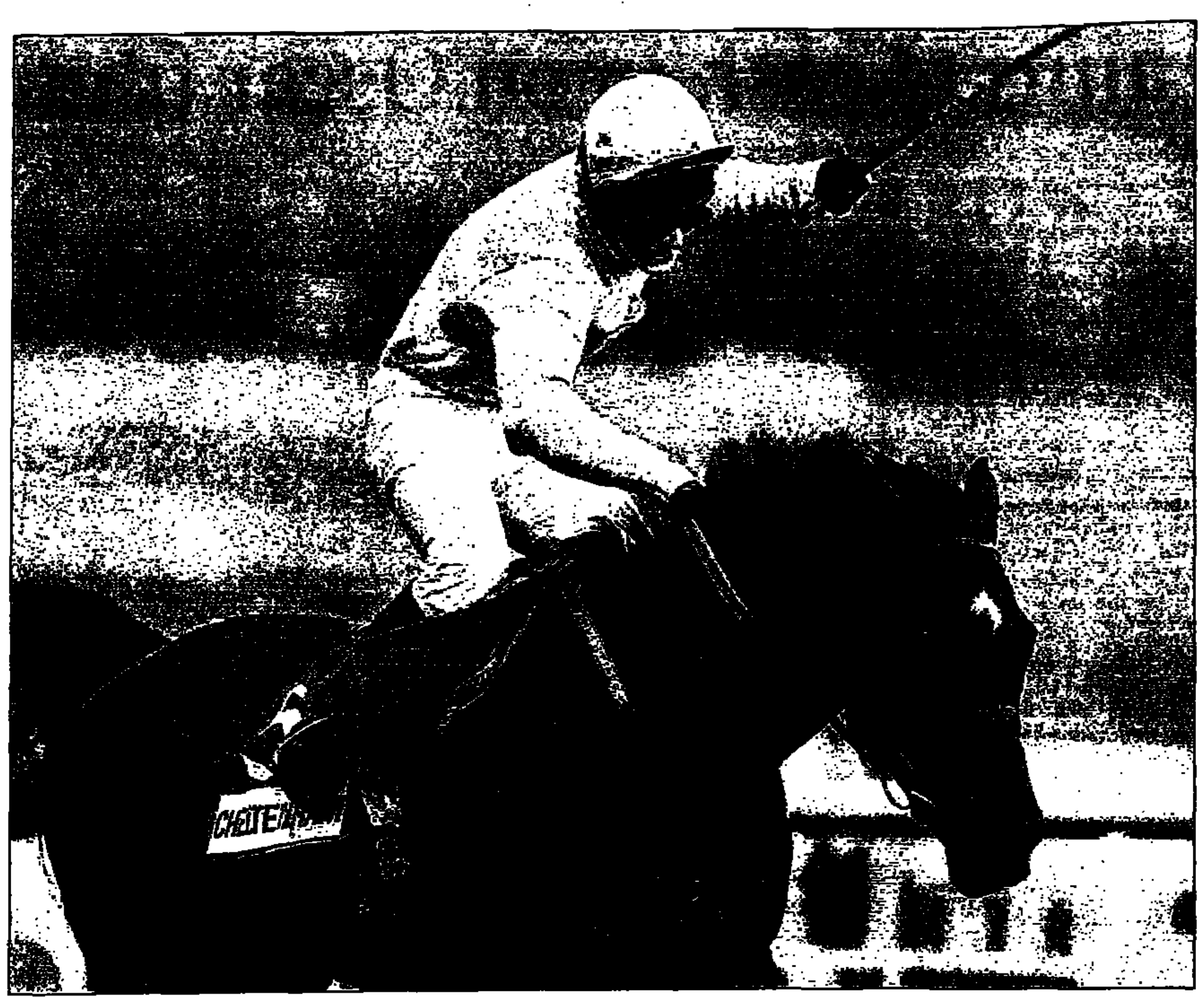
Ask Tom excelled himself in second while Viking Flagship's effort deserves recognition. In five visits to Cheltenham he has never finished worse than third.

Had Istabraq filled the same berth in the Royal SunAlliance Hurdle, he would have been dismissed as a fraud. It fell to him to make good considerable Irish losses sustained on Tuesday and he did not disappoint, although his supporters endured several anxious moments before bursting into song.

Having boiled over in the paddock, where he seemed agitated to boot, Istabraq looked anything but a worthy 6-5 favourite. And when Charlie Swan anchored him last of 17 runners the plot appeared to be running wild. A serious bump at the second-last flight compounded a difficult situation but the horse showed real character to pull the race out of the fire. "I thought I was beaten but he kept sticking his head down every time I asked," Swan said.

Istabraq's victory threatened scenes of delirium. While Ireland's travelling hordes pay scant heed to the sanctuary of the winner's enclosure, efforts to deny them access were over-zealous. To see a posse of black-clad security men swarm the enclosure on account of a handful of intruders ruined what should have been a joyous celebration.

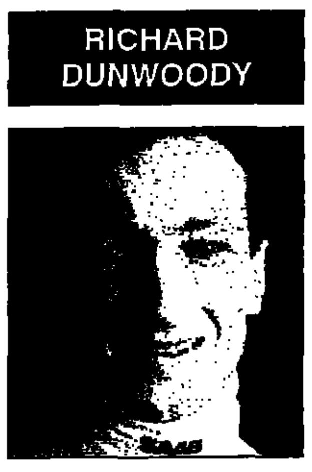
The mood was neatly encapsulated by the antics of Edward Gillespie, managing director at Cheltenham. His efforts to restrain an individual unknown to him served only to detain Aidan O'Brien, the trainer of Istabraq, from joining his owner and jockey beside the winning horse.



Martha's Son and Farrant power up the hill to lift the Queen Mother Champion Chase. Photograph: Marc Aspland

One Man can answer his critics

RICHARD DUNWOODY



Just occasionally Cheltenham throws up a race that is complex and exciting beyond what we have come to expect from the Festival. The Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup today is just such a contest, with a fascinating mix of the old and new. A trio of talented novices add an intriguing dimension and there's every prospect that one of them might come through. It's the sort of spectacle I could almost enjoy watching from the stands.

As it is, I'll have a good view of the race from the back of One Man, whom I expect to ride under restraint. It is important to his chance that I get him settled early on, as he can be a bit fizzy. It is always an advantage if you can anticipate how a race might unfold, and it's pretty clear the early gallop will be cutthroat. Mr Mulligan will be harried all the way by the likes of Dublin Flyer, Banjo, Barton Bank, Unguided Missile, Cyborgo and Danoli.

I welcome that. One Man's jumping ability is one of his strengths; he will be very comfortable racing at speed. In some of his previous races he has jumped so well that he has carried me towards the front much too soon. And a strong pace might unsettle the younger horses. Danoli, Dorans Pride and Cyborgo, who are in their first season over fences, will find this a very different experience.

Mind you, I couldn't dismiss any of them with confidence. Perhaps Cyborgo's chance is the weakest — and that's only because fast ground won't put a premium on the stamina he has in abundance. To win the race, I feel he will have to force things some way from home. He might lack the experience to do that effectively.

The ground is also against Dorans Pride. He has class and we know he stays. But his fall at Thurles last time was exactly what he didn't need. He's the type that warms to his jumping as the race unfolds but he will find it all happening very quickly today.

If Danoli wins, the Irish will go crazy. It will be like Arkle, Dawn Run and Desert Orchid rolled into one. This is another whose jumping simply has to stay together on the day. Connections played to his competitive instincts at Leopardstown last time and the plan worked a treat. Even then, however, he made one bad mistake. It will place huge demands on his courage and spirit if he does the same here.

Dublin Flyer's bold forcing tactics will really test the novices but I just worry about the trip for him. He has been racing at distances below three miles, although he must have been wrong when so disappointing in last year's Gold Cup. And I can't really rate Coome Hill better than an each-way chance on this ground. Like Cyborgo, his stamina probably won't be such a big influence on the outcome. On the credit side, Jamie Osborne has yet to get to the bottom of him.

That leaves us with Imperial Call, who I believe is the one to beat. When he won 12 months ago everyone expected him to do it again and again, yet everything has gone wrong this season. He fell first time out, tripped over his leg bandages in some work and then missed his intended prep race. To me, he looked the likely winner in Danoli's Leopardstown race until lack of fitness caught up with him.

I wrote at length about One Man before he won the King George, but since then the critics have taken him to task. They questioned his courage after his Ascot defeat last month but I am really looking forward to riding him. People doubt whether he will come up the hill after the way he fared last year.

For whatever reason, he tends to tie up at the end of his races. In his defence, I'll remind you how emphatically he strode up the Sandown hill in the King George 14 months ago. After what he has been through, the way people have suddenly turned sour on him, it would mean a lot to me to win on this horse. Otherwise, my best prospects rest with Shooting Light in the Elite Racing Club Triumph Hurdle and Trainglot in the Tripleprint Stayers' Hurdle.

Fighting for survival in hard school

Andrew Longmore compares the fortunes of jockeys at opposite ends of the scale

The roar sent shivers down the spine of everyone with a bit of green inside him and an unreasonable belief in the power of prayer. Istabraq had ensured a future for the Irish economy and a host of smiling faces spoke of the relief.

After a barren opening day, the change of fortune came wrapped in the green and orange colours of J. P. McManus, whose annual conversation with the bookmakers is conducted in telephone numbers. McManus is a quiet man, but by the time the Festival comes around, his whispers can send shockwaves through the stoutest of hearts.

On the weighing-room balcony, unnoticed by the crowds, Jayo Kinane listened to his countrymen and felt the emotion as keenly as the feted jockey, Charlie Swan. His real name is James K. Kinane, but his younger brother, Michael, always pronounced his name wrong and so Jayo it has always been.

The pair are a year apart in age, but a world away in fortunes: Michael is one of the world's leading Flat jockeys, a multimillionaire winner of the Derby; Jayo had his fourth ever ride at the Festival yesterday, at 36.

Only in a recurring dream does he ever come close to matching the deeds of his brother. "I'm there, at the Curragh, riding one of Vincent O'Brien's horses in the Irish Derby. I don't know its name, and I jump off in front. As we come into the straight, I look behind me and there's no one there, but just before we get to the lollipop, my wife shakes me awake. I never get there."

Yesterday morning, before most were up, Jayo had walked the course, not because Lord Muff, his mount in the Royal SunAlliance Chase, might benefit from the research, but just to savour the feeling. Since High Diver fell with the Irish Grand National in his grasp a decade ago, he walks all courses the wrong way round.

But he stopped anyway at the bottom of the hill, musing gently about the twists in his life that have left him among the also-rans of his profession, wondering whether he might one day enjoy better luck as a trainer. His father, Tommy, won the Champion Hurdle on Monksfield. If there is scope for bitterness, none shows.

"I've done well," he says. "I've not ridden many decent horses but a lot of people would want to be where I am today, still riding at Cheltenham. And I've got a couple more years yet."

Had Lord Muff but known the weight of unpaid dues on his back, he would never have made the start. As it was, he was last for the first circuit and a hard-ridden ninth of 11 at the finish. It was poor reward for the 21-hour journey Kinane and Lord Muff had made on Monday, by truck and ferry. "It's the only way someone like me will get the ride, you see," he said.

As he spoke, Swan walked by, another interview done. "I used to ride with his father," Kinane said. "No, don't say that, it makes me sound old. Brilliant ride, that. There was a lot of pressure on him." Not that it showed. Swan's nerve was cast-iron as he kept Istabraq at the back for a mile before sweeping smoothly through to fill deep pockets. More important than the fat wallets, though, was the man listening to the commentary on a phone link 3,000 miles away.

Swan: feted

John Durkan, who bought Istabraq and was going to train him, contracted leukaemia at 30 and has been recuperating in a New York hospital since New Year's Day. Today, he undergoes a bone marrow transplant. "I could hear the emotion in his voice," his father-in-law, Timmy Hyde, said. "His attitude is fantastic. He is still fighting."

So is Jayo in a different way. Just being part of the Cheltenham Festival, part of the folly and the fretting, is enough to send him happily back to his early mornings on the gallops and his afternoons in his secondhand car business. "I feel very lucky to be here," he said. The luck of the Irish indeed.

HEXHAM

THUNDERER

2.25 Bill's Pride. 3.00 Rallegio. 3.35 Off The Bru. 4.05 Southern Cross. 4.40 Last Refuge. 5.15 Kings Lane.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

2.25 MEDALLION LAGER CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS MARES ONLY HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,322: 2m) (11 runners)

1	03-0	QUALITAIR PRIDE 10F J Bottomley 5-11-12	E Callaghan	94
2	-P00	MILL THYME 26 (D,F,G) P Beaumont 5-11-8	B Grattan	–
3	/22-	CATCH THE PIGEON 537 R Barr 8-11-2	R McGrath	96
4	41-6	TANCRED MISCHIEF 94 (F) D Barker 6-11-2	P Midgley	87
5	1035	PEGGY GORDON 19 (F) Mrs D Thomson 6-11-0	N Horrocks (3)	●
6	5P56	BILL'S PRIDE 6 P Monteith 6-10-13	C McCormack (5)	89
7	434F	AMBER HOLLY 92 J Dixon 8-10-13	I Jardine (5)	94
8	-106	APOLLO'S DAUGHTER 7 (CD,F) J Goulding 9-10-6	F Leahy	95
9	0-00	MILLERS GOLDENGIRL 42 Mrs S Smith 6-10-3	G F Ryan	–
10	060P	SKI PATH 7 N Bycroft 8-10-2	G Lee	–
11	00F0	MEADOWLECK 6 W Young 8-10-0	S Taylor	98

5-2 Apollo's Daughter, 7-2 Peggy Gordon, 9-2 Amber Holly, 5-1 Catch The Pigeon, 7-1 Tancred Mischief, 10-1 Bill's Pride, 14-1 others

3.00 ANN LEBON NOVICES CHASE (£2,961: 2m 110yd) (8)

1	-131	RALLEGIO 30 (D,G,S) P Monteith 8-11-10	G Cahill	●
2	0P	ABSOLUTELY JOHN 9 M Todhunter 9-11-3	M Moloney	–
3	6P05	DISTILLERY HILL 8 V Thompson 9-11-3	Mr M Thompson	75
4	5000	EXEMPLAR 23 (F,G) Mrs S Smith 9-11-3	G F Ryan (5)	–
5	5554	OBVIOUS RISK 9 E Caine 6-11-3	S Taylor (5)	–
6	-0PF	PRINCE BALTASAR 16 N Bycroft 9-11-3	M Foster	–
7	F442	TAPATCH 8 (F,G) M W Easterby 9-11-3	R Garritty	89
8	F00P	NAWTINOOKEY 17 M Todhunter 7-10-12	C McCormack (7)	–

4-5 Rallegio, 7-4 Tapatch, 9-2 Exemplar, 10-1 Obvious Risk, 14-1 Absolutely John, 20-1 Distillery Hill, 25-1 others

3.35 WIN WITH THE TOTE HANDICAP CHASE (£4,056: 4m) (8)

1	1-P2	STONEY BURKE 17 (G) Mrs L Russell 9-11-10	A Thornton	93
2	51F0	PENNINE PRIDE 26 (B,G,S) M Hammond 10-11-3	R Garritty	98
3	3121	OFF THE BRU 13 (C,F,G,S) Mrs S Bradburne 12-10-13	Mr M Bradburne (7)	●
4	1520	HEAVENLY CITIZEN 13 (F,G,S) J Gledson 9-10-12	K Johnson	93
5	5655	HUDSON BAY TRADER 6 (C,G,S) P Beaumont 10-10-8	B Grattan (5)	94
6	1223	TICO GOLD 8 (G) P Cheesbrough 9-10-5	G Cahill	84
7	4P12	GOLD PIGEON 14 (G) B Rothwell 8-10-0	R Supple	95
8	6FP6	QUIXALL CROSSETT 7 E Caine 12-10-0	S Taylor (5)	60

6-4 Off The Bru, 3-1 Stoney Burke, 9-2 Pennine Pride, 6-1 Tico Gold, 8-1 Gold Pigeon, 12-1 Heavenly Citizen, 14-1 others

4.05 KEOGHANS NOVICES HURDLE (£2,490: 3m) (12)

1	2514	MR CHRISTIE 16 (D,S) Miss L Siddall 5-11-9	A Thornton	88
2	332F	PEBBLE BEACH 45 (F) G Moore 7-11-9	J Callaghan	91
3	-100	SUTHERLAND MOSS 26 (G,S) T Tate 6-11-9	M Foster	87
4	46F	ALLERBANK 9 Mrs J Storey 6-11-3	Mr C Storey	86
5	03	CELTIC DUKE 45 M Hammond 5-11-3	R Garritty	91
6	-000	FENLOE RAMBLER 52 R Johnson 6-11-3	K Johnson	89
7	0-65	HADAWAY LAD 9 H Johnson 5-11-3	M Moloney	–
8	022	MAGPIE MELODY 47 L Lungo 6-11-3	R Supple	–
9	3-54	SOUTHERN CROSS 51 (S) M W Easterby 5-11-3	P Midgley (3)	●
10	00	TARTAN JOY 89 J Moore 6-11-3	N Smith	–
11	000P	WILLIE WANNABE 7 Mrs D Thomson 7-11-3	D Parker	–
12	0304	DIDDY RYMER 7 Mrs S Smith 7-10-12	R Guest	85

7-2 Diddy Rymer, 4-1 Magpie Melody, Celtic Duke, 5-1 Southern Cross, 7-1 others.

4.40 FEDERATION BREWERY HANDICAP CHASE (£3,013: 2m 4f 110yd) (12)

1	0234	TIGHTER BUDGET 94 (D,F,G,S) Mrs Sayer 10-12-0	M Moloney	93
2	-042	LAST REFUGE 9 (CD,F,S) T Carr 8-11-8	N Smith	90
3	0421	CHILL WIND 7 (F,G,S) N Bycroft 8-11-8 (6ex)	M Foster	90
4	3252	PARIAH 7 (BF,S) M Todhunter 8-11-5	J Callaghan	98
5	004P	SUPPOSIN 21 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs S Smith 9-11-5	R Guest	95
6	35-P	RUSTY BLADE 29 (G) P Monteith 8-11-4	Mr R Hale	97
7	4F4F	GRAND SCENERY 9 (D,F,G) H Johnson 9-10-13	A Thornton	89
8	P3PP	SNOOK POINT 28 (G) D Lamb 10-10-3	J Burke	98
9	544	CULLANE LAKE 27 Miss M Milligan 7-10-1	R Supple	91
10	6563	WILLIE SPARKLE 35 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs Bradburne 11-10-0	G Cahill	●
11	4433	RISKY DEE 19 (F,G) V Thompson 8-10-0	K Johnson	96
12	0P/P	MOSS BEE 46P (C,F) W Reed 10-10-6	T Reed	–

7-2 Chill Wind, 9-2 Pariah, 5-1 Last Refuge, 6-1 Tighter Budget, 7-1 others

5.15 BUCHANAN ALE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,284: 3m) (11)

1	6113	MENSHAAR 47 (CD,BF,G,S) L Lungo 5-12-0	R Supple	90
2	43-	KENILWORTH LAD 479 (D,G,S) W Cunningham 9-11-7	L McGrath (7)	–
3	1-68	NEW CHARGES 26 (CD,F,G) P Beaumont 10-11-6	B Grattan (5)	96
4	-206	RIMOUSKI 20 (D,G) B Cambidge 9-11-5	Gary Lyons	●
5	P5-0	GRACE CARD 23 (B,D,G,S) B Cambidge 11-11-4	Miss P Robson	–
6	F0-4	FIVE FLAGS 37 (F,G,S) Mrs S Smith 9-11-2	R Guest	–
7	5014	DOCKMASTER 14 (D,G,S) Miss Milligan 6-11-1	N Horrocks (7)	96
8	0203	KINGS LANE 5 (C,G) J Dixon 8-10-13	D Parker	98
9	0035	CORBLEU 16 S Bell 7-10-0	K Johnson	94
10	130P	KINGS MINSTRAL 45 (C,G) D Lamb 7-10-0	J Burke	97
11	0005	THE OTHER MAN 14 Miss L Siddall 7-10-0	D Pears	83

7-2 Dockmaster, 4-1 Menshaar, 5-1 Kings Lane, 7-1 Kenilworth Lad, 8-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

HEXHAM: Trainers: J Bottomley, 3 winners from 9 runners, 33.3%; T Carr, 5 from 19, 26.3%; L Lungo, 21 from 81, 25.9%. Jockeys: T Reed, 19 winners from 102 rides, 18.6%; G Cahill, 10 from 61, 16.4%; R Garritty, 9 from 57, 15.8%.

LINGFIELD PARK: Trainers: G Lewis, 18 winners from 73 runners, 24.7%; Lord Huntingdon, 42 from 191, 22.0%; D Nicholls, 9 from 46, 19.6%. Jockeys: Aimee Cook, 3 winners from 14 rides, 21.4%; S Whitworth, 35 from 178, 19.7%; R Cochrane, 47 from 268, 17.5%.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

2.15 Biya. 2.45 In The Money. 3.20 Soaking. 3.50 Mellors. 4.20 Renown. 4.50 Robo Magic. 5.25 Bold Habit.

GOING: STANDARD SIS

DRAW: 5F–1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.15 REID MINTY LITIGATORS HANDICAP (Div I: Amateurs: £2,090: 1m) (11 runners)

1	30-0	ROMAN REEL 19 (C,D,F,G) G L Moore 6-11-7	Mrs J Moore (5) 5
2	-000	WARHURST 27 (D,G) D Nicholls 6-11-4	Miss R Clark (3) 10
3	04-0	BELLAS GATE BOY 37 J Pearce 5-11-1	Mrs L Pearce 6
4	-531	BIYA 21J (CD,G) D McCain 5-11-0	G Lake (5) 9
5	0-40	CZARNA 16 (C,BF,S) C Britain 6-10-10	Mrs C Williams (5) 1
6	000-	LOVE LEGEND 126 (C,F,G,S) D Arbuthnot 12-10-7	Mrs D Arbuthnot 2
7	5334	DREAM CARRIER 8 (D,F,G) R Peacock 9-10-7	Mrs C Peacock (7) 11
8	0-50	PRINCELY AFFAIR 28J (F) J Bradley 4-10-4	Miss E J Jones (5) 8
9	00-6	AJKUIT 19 J Sheehan 4-10-2	Miss C Hannaford (7) 4
10	-450	SPECTACLE JIM 19 (B,G) B Pearce 8-10-2	Mrs K Hills (7) 3
11	000-	TITANIUM HONDA 174J (B,G) D O'Brien 6-9-8	V Lukaniuk (5) 7

11-4 Biya, 7-2 Dream Carrier, 9-2 Czarna, 7-1 Bellas Gate Boy, 10-1 others

2.45 REID MINTY SOLICITORS HANDICAP (£3,355: 1m 4f) (7)

1	310-	ONE OFF THE RAIL 207 (CD,F,G) G L Moore 7-10-0	S Whitworth 5
2	036-	MISTER ASPECTO 146 (V,CD,F,G) M Johnston 4-9-10	D McKeown 2
3	-213	WOTTASHAMBLES 30 (C,D,BF,F,G) L Montague Hall 6-9-5	W Ryan 6
4	22-0	LOKI 9 (F,G,S) (B,CD,BF) G Lewis 9-9-0	A Whelan (3) 3
5	1131	IN THE MONEY 20 (CD,F,G) R Hollinshead 8-8-11	D Griffiths (5) 4
6	-313	ZACAROON 15 (CD,G) J Ffitch-Heyes 6-8-2	D Biggs 1
7	1526	FABULOUS MTOTO 16 (C,D,BF,F,G) M Saunders 7-7-10	R Ffrench (7) 7

7-2 In The Money, 4-1 Wottashambles, 9-2 Zacaroon, 5-1 Loki, 6-1 others

3.20 REID MINTY LIBEL & SLANDER CLAIMING STAKES (£2,869: 7f) (10)

1	00-0	NORDINEX 23 (C,F,G) D Elsworth 5-10-0	D Griffiths (5) 7
2	-224	ERTLON 17 (C,D,BF,F,G) C Brittain 7-9-12	W Ryan 9
3	0411	GREATEST 16 (B,CD,F,G) Miss G Kelleway 6-9-11	K Fallon 2
4	014-	PURPLE FLING 107 (D,F,G,S) L Cottrell 6-9-10	R Cochrane 5
5	1-13	SOAKING 44 (CD,BF,F,G) N Berry 7-9-10	D R McCabe 4
6	0-0	CAMPHAR 19 R Flower 4-9-9	S Drowne 6
7	2121	INVOCATION 23 (CD,F,G) G L Moore 10-9-7	A Clark 3
8	0414	SPENCER'S REVENGE 12 (CD,F,G) P Butler 8-9-6	G Bardwell 10
9	0604	QUINZII MARTIN 15 (CD,G) D H Jones 9-9-5	Joelene Richards (7) 1
10	2550	OUR SHADEE 14 (V,CD,F,G) K Ivory 7-9-4	Anthony Bond (7) 8

7-2 Soaking, 4-1 Ertlon, 5-1 Invocation, 6-1 Greatest, 8-1 others

3.50 COST CLAIMING STAKES (£2,484: 6f) (8)

1	1265	MELLORS 14 (CD,G) M Heaton-Ellis 4-10-0	S Drowne 1
2	-400	SHONTAINE 50 (D,F,G) M Johnston 4-9-6	D McKeown 4
3	060-	RUNS IN THE FAMILY 169 (D,S) G McCourt 5-9-5	R Studholme (7) 3
4	00-0	MEMBERS WELCOME 12 W G M Turner 4-9-4	T Sprake 5
5	4450	NORLING 35 (D,F,G) K Cunningham-Brown 7-9-4	C Munday 7
6	4415	JUSTINIANUS 19 (CD,G,S) J Bridger 5-9-1	A Daly (5) 6
7	2-02	ZELAYA 21 G L Moore 4-8-11	F Norton 8
8	00-0	VIENNESE DANCER 68 R Williams 4-8-10	D Biggs 2

5-2 Zelaya, 3-1 Mellors, 4-1 Shontaine, 5-1 Norling, 6-1 others

4.20 REID MINTY 17TH ANNIVERSARY HANDICAP (£5,053: 1m 2f) (12)

1	3130	SOUTH EASTERN FRED 15 (CD,F,G) H Collingridge 6-10-0	R Mullen (5) 12
2	0-36	BARDON HILL BOY 22 (CD,F,G) B Hanbury 5-9-6	M Rimmer 8
3	010-	OCEAN PARK 155 (CD,F,G) Lady Herries 6-9-6	A Clark 11
4	-553	PRINCE DANZIG 12 (CD,F,G) D M Smith 6-9-4	Dane O'Neill 10
5	0-26	SECRET ALY 15 (CD,BF,F,G) C Brittain 7-9-2	W Ryan 7
6	-301	PUNKAH 23 (CD,F,G) G McCourt 4-8-13	R Studholme (7) 2
7	20-2	RENOWN 35 (CD,F,G) Ld Huntingdon 5-8-10	Aimee Cook (5) 6
8	2233	ROBELLION 9 (V,CD,F,G) D Arbuthnot 6-8-5	S Whitworth 1
9	04/0	SHEROY 17 (D,F) S Kettlewell 5-8-5	Jonny Benson (7) 9
10	6-62	DIGPAST 9 (C,G) M Madgwick 7-8-4	Martin Dwyer (3) 4
11	3015	TALLULAH BELLE 12 (CD,G) N Littmoden 4-8-2	J Quinn 5
12	2133	QUIET ARCH 7J (CD,G) W Muir 4-8-0	J Bramhill (5) 3

5-1 Punkah, 11-2 Secret Aly, 6-1 Renown, Quiet Arch, 7-1 others.

4.50 REID MINTY COMMERCIAL PROPERTY SOLUTIONS HANDICAP (£3,274: 5f) (7)

1	1263	ROBO MAGIC 5 (C,F,G) L Montague Hall 5-10-0	F Lynch (3) 1
2	45-0	INTIAASH 10 (F,G) D Haydn Jones 5-9-11	T Williams 6
3	-L00	MIJAS 14 (CD,F,G) L Montague Hall 4-9-11	Dane O'Neill 5
4	6116	SALLY SLADE 14 (CD,F,G,S) C Cyzer 5-9-10	D Biggs 2
5	1261	GI LA HIGH 8 (CD,G) M Meade 4-9-2 (7ex)	D Sweeney (5) 4
6	-440	BOWCLIFFE GRANGE 8 (CD,F) D Chapman 5-8-1	J Quinn 3
7	1525	IVORY'S GRAB HIRE 14 (B,CD,F,G) K Ivory 4-7-12	Martin Dwyer (3) 7

3-1 Gi La High, 7-2 Robo Magic, 4-1 Ivory's Grab Hire, Sally Slade, 5-1 others

5.25 REID MINTY LITIGATORS HANDICAP (Div II: amateurs: £2,090: 1m) (10)

1	0201	KI CHI SAGA 9 (CD,G,S) M Madgwick 5-11-10 (5ex)	P Middleton (7) 7
2	-164	HATTA SUNSHINE 26 (CD,G) G L Moore 7-11-7	Mrs J Moore (5) 4
3	4801	EASTLEIGH 14 (CD,G,S) R Hollinshead 8-10-13	K Goble 5
4	0236	STATISTICIAN 9 (E,F) John Berry 5-10-11	C J McEntee (7) 2
5	2335	BOLD HABIT 8 (CD,F,G) J Pearce 12-10-10	Mrs L Pearce 3
6	5031	GADGE 19 (CD,G,S) A Bailey 6-10-10	Miss A L Hutchinson (7) 8
7	6362	PRIVATE FIXTURE 17 (C,G) D Marks 6-10-7	T McCarthy 1
8	000-	RETURN TO BRIGHTON 114 (D,F) J Bradley 5-10-2	Miss E J Jones (5) 6
9	6342	DON'T DROP BOMBS 9 (V,CD,F,G) D Thom 8-10-0	Miss J Feilden 10
10	00-0	SUSSEX GORSE 17 J Long 6-9-0	T Waters (7) 9

7-2 Bold Habit, 4-1 Private Fixture, 9-2 Eastleigh, 5-1 Gadge, 6-1 others

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Cheltenham

Going: good to firm

2.00 ROYAL SUNALLIANCE NOVICES HURDLE (Grade I: £49,585: 2m 5f)

ISTABRAQ b g Sadler's Wells - Betty's Secret (J P McManus) 5-11-7 C Swan (6-5 fav) 1.

Mighty Moss b g Moscow Society - Derry Girl (K Hursby) 6-11-7 Mr F Hursby (11-1) 2.

Daraydan b g Kahyasi - Delsy (D Johnson) 5-11-7 R Hughes (16-1) 3.

ALSO RAN: 6 Agistment (f), 9 Royaltino, 14 Forest Ivory (4th), 20 Boss Doyle, Marching Marquis, 25 Harbour Island (6th), The Proms, 33 Difficult Times, Soldat (5th), 50 Hurdante, 66 Hand Woven, 100 Latahaab, Nacone, 200 Prussia. 17 ran. NR: Mentmore Towers, Moreceva, Red Blazer. 1l, ¾l, 3l, 7l, 10l. A O'Brien (Ire) at Ballydoyle. Tote: £2.40; £1.50, £2.20, £3.30. DF: £10.60. Trio: £68.70. CSF: £11.43.

2.35 QUEEN MOTHER CHAMPION CHASE (Grade I: £81,650: 2m)

MARTHA'S SON b g Idiot's Delight - Lady Martha (P Hartigan) 10-12-0 R Farrant (9-1) 1.

Ask Tom b g Strong Gale - On The Scratch (B Stewart-Brown) 8-12-0 R Garritty (6-1) 2.

Viking Flagship b g Viking - Fourth Degree (Roach Foods Ltd) 10-12-0 R Dunwoody (3-1) 3.

ALSO RAN: 5-2 fav Strong Promise (5th), 3 Klairon Davis (4th), 50 Lord Dorcet (6th). 6 ran. NR: Arctic Kinsman. 2½l, ¾l, 1l, 5l, 8l. T Forster at Downton. Tote: £11.00; £3.10, £2.00. DF: £21.10. CSF: £45.94.

3.15 (2m 5f hdle) 1. BIG STRAND (J Evans, 16-1); 2. Allegation (A P McCoy, 20-1); 3. Castle Sweep (R Johnson, 14-1); 4. Tullymurry Toff (E Callaghan, 9-2 fav). ALSO RAN: 10 Copper Boy, Ela Mata, Supreme Lady, 12 Blast Freeze, Rawy, Sea Victor, 16 Direct Route (pu), Executive Design, Family Way (pu), 20 Mandys Mantino, 25 Kissair, Mystical City, 33 Ballyrihy Boy, Gysart, Metastasio, Nijmegen, Sesame Seed, 40 Dr Leunt (6th), Non Vintage, 50 Fatack, Lying Eyes, 100 Eton Gale, Tamarpour (5th), 200 Scottish Wedding. 28 ran. NR: Edgemoor Prince. Sh hd, hd, 1l, 1l, 1l. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote: £26.10; £5.40, £4.40, £3.50, £2.10. DF: £138.10. Trio: £761.70. CSF: £292.83. Tricast: £4,196.60.

3.55 ROYAL SUNALLIANCE CHASE (Grade I: £57,282: 3m 1f)

HANAKHAM b g Phardante - Even Charm (M Brereton) 8-11-4 R Dunwoody (13-2) 1.

Eudipe b g Useful - Toskanina (D Johnson) 5-10-8 A P McCoy (4-1) 2.

Djeddah b g Shafoun - Union Jack III (Mrs S Elkaim) 6-11-4 A Kondrat (100-30 fav) 3.

ALSO RAN: 15-2 Berude Not To (4th), 9 Corket (5th), 10 Indian Tracker, 11 Buckhouse Boy (pu), 14 Bell Staffboy, 16 Glitter Isle (6th), 25 Baronet, 33 The Last Fling (ur), 66 Hawaiian Sam, 100 Lord Muff, 150 Ballyfine (pu). 14 ran. NR: Crown Equerry, Kamikaze. 2½l, 5l, 2l, 9l, 6l. R Hodges at Somerton. Tote: £7.40; £2.30, £2.20, £1.90. DF: £18.70. Trio: £19.30. CSF: £29.38.

4.30 (4m ch) 1. FLIMSY TRUTH (Mr M Harris, 33-1); 2. Vol Par Nuit (Mr T Doumen, 13-2); 3. Robsand (Mr A Sansome, 9-1). ALSO RAN: 6-1 fav Random Harvest (pu), 7 Sideofhill (pu), 9 Dromhana (5th), General Pongo (pu), 12 Coolafinka, 14 Ballyea Boy, Little Martina (ur), 16 Irish Light (4th), Itsajungleoutthere (pu), Parahandy (6th), 25 Macaunta (pu), 33 Capo Castanum (ur), Young Mrs Kelly (f), 50 Cardinal Rule (pu), Charlie Parrot (pu), Jasilu (pu), Master Kit (f), 66 Wixoe Wonder (pu), 100 Loch Garman Hotel, Plassy Boy (pu). 23 ran. NR: Cendwen, Druid's Brook. Easy Breezy 1½l, 27l, 3l, 1½l, 7l. M Weston at Hindlip. Tote: £56.60; £11.70, £2.60, £3.90. DF: £163.10. Trio: £333.90. CSF: £220.29.

5.05 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1. TERAO (T J Murphy, 20-1); 2. All The Aces (C F Swan, 14-1); 3. Air Shot (R Johnson, 15-2). ALSO RAN: 100-30 fav As Du Trefle (6th), 11-2 Noyan (4th), 6 Destiny Calls (5th), 7 Golden Spinner (pu), 11 Konvekta King (pu), 14 New Co, 16 Northern Hide, Pashto, Southampton, 25 Bells Life. 13 ran. NR: Beatson, Camitrov, Rouyan. 1½l, hd, 1½l, 1½l, 8l. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote: £37.40; £8.40, £3.30, £2.50. DF: £148.90. Trio: £152.70. CSF: £254.85. Tricast: £2,104.22.

5.40 (2m 110yd) 1. FLORIDA PEARL (R Dunwoody, 6-1); 2. Arctic Camper (R Johnson, 16-1); 3. All The Colours (J Osborne, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 4-1 fav Dawn Leader, 7 Samuel Wilderspin, 8 Erintante, 9 Mr Markham (5th), 10 French Holly (6th), Mr Lurpak, 12 Fawn Prince, 16 Furnitureville, Musical Mayhem, 20 Our Bid, 33 Brownes Hill Lad, Curradutt Moll, Iranos, 40 Ballad Minstrel, King Mole, 50 Dom Beltrano, Frankie Willow, Top Note, 66 Scoring Pedigree (4th), 100 Bozo, Endeavour, Memsahib Ofesteem. 25 ran. 5l, 2l, ¾l, 1½l, sh hd. W Mullins (Ire) at Goresbridge. Tote: £5.50; £2.60, £9.40, £3.20. DF: £137.80. Trio: £310.90. CSF: £98.49.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £128,698.13 carried forward to Cheltenham today).

Placepot: £1,258.60. Quadpot: £90.80.

Huntingdon

Going: good, good to firm in places

1.50 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1. Edward Seymour (T Jenks, 3-1 fav); 2. Code Red (6-1); 3. Bark'n'bite (6-1). 10 ran. NR: Doon Ridge. 1½l, 3l. W Jenks. Tote: £2.50; £1.30, £1.60, £2.20. DF: £13.10. Trio: £19.00. CSF: £20.71. Tricast: £95.51.

2.25 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1. Northern Star (Miss J Wormall, 16-1); 2. Loch Na Keal (9-1); 3. Tursal (66-1). Dark Phoenix 3-1 fav. 17 ran. 2l, 3l. J Pickering. Tote: £54.60; £11.70, £4.10, £21.20. DF: £194.10. Trio: not won (pool of £319.34 carried forward to 3.15 at Cheltenham today). CSF: £150.35.

3.00 (3m ch) 1. Sheelin Lad (T Reed, 33-1); 2. Tim Soldier (11-4); 3. Night Fancy (20-1). Reapers Rock 5-2 fav (ur). 11 ran. Nk, 15l. Mrs T McInnes Skinner. Tote: £58.80; £5.70, £2.40, £5.10. DF: £32.20. Trio: £169.70. CSF: £113.57. Tricast: £1,797.46.

3.35 (2m 110yd hdle) 1. Iron N Gold (Sophie Mitchell, 2-1 fav); 2. Highly Charming (9-2); 3. Shifting Moon (11-2). 9 ran. ¾l, 11l. T Casey. Tote: £2.30; £1.10, £2.50, £3.20. DF: £9.00. Trio: £15.50. CSF: £11.00. Tricast: £39.11.

4.05 (3m 2f hdle) 1. Tilty (T Eley, 7-4 fav); 2. The Nettle Danger (11-2); 3. Tiger Claw (8-1). 5 ran. NR: Uluru. 2½l, ¾l. A Streeter. Tote: £2.30; £1.60, £1.90. DF: £11.80. CSF: £11.12.

4.40 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1. Mr Conductor (J R Kavanagh, 1-6 fav); 2. Katballou (6-1); 3. Deep Song (11-1). 3 ran. NR: Grooving, Pegasus Bay. 21l, 14l. R Alner. Tote: £1.10. DF: £1.40. CSF: £1.64.

5.15 (2m 110yd flat) 1. Lord Lamb (G Lee, 4-5 fav); 2. Dad's Army Two (7-2); 3. Kandyson (12-1). 11 ran. NR: Another Rumpus, Last Penny, Sunday Venture. 4l, 2l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £1.40; £1.10, £1.60, £5.00. DF: £5.70. Trio: £26.60. CSF: £4.75.

Placepot: £901.40. Quadpot: £8.70.

Newton Abbot

Going: heavy

2.10 (2m 110yd ch) 1. Court Master (P Holley, 8-11 fav); 2. Finnigan Free (10-1); 3. Imalight (5-1). 7 ran. 1l, 11l. R Buckler. Tote: £1.50; £1.20, £8.70. DF: £18.90. CSF: £9.89.

2.40 (2m 6f hdle) 1. Defendtherealm (J Frost, 11-8 fav); 2. Armateur (25-1); 3. Rich Tycoon (33-1). 13 ran. NR: Willows Roulette. 7l, 6l. R Frost. Tote: £2.30; £1.40, £5.50, £6.80. DF: £56.70. Trio: not won (pool of £143.39 carried forward to 3.15 at Cheltenham today). CSF: £43.41.

3.10 (2m 5f 110yd ch) 1. Orswell Lad (Mr S Durack, 6-4 fav); 2. Jailbreaker (11-4); 3. Bit Of A Touch (4-1). 4 ran. 12l, 15l. P Hobbs. Tote: £3.70. DF: £3.30. CSF: £5.61.

3.45 (2m 6f hdle) 1. Hold Your Ranks (J Frost, 5-1); 2. Cassio's Boy (2-1 jt-fav); 3. La Menorquina (9-2). Ritto 2-1 jt-fav. 5 ran. ¾l, 5l. R Frost. Tote: £6.20; £3.10, £1.60. DF: £7.00. CSF: £14.77.

4.20 (2m 5f 110yd ch) 1. Herhorse (Mr L Jefford, 16-1); 2. Kniaoro (7-4 jt-fav); 3. Good King Henry (9-1). 11 ran. 12l, dist. Miss A Howard-Chappell. Tote: £32.20; £2.60, £1.50, £2.60. DF: £22.20. Trio: £44.50. CSF: £45.40.

4.55 (2m 1f hdle) 1. Alice's Mirror (R Greene, 12-1); 2. Alpine Joker (5-2 jt-fav); 3. Friendly House (5-2 jt-fav). 9 ran. 3l, 5l. K Bishop. Tote: £13.90; £1.70, £1.70, £1.60. DF: £21.60. Trio: £27.70. CSF: £39.86. Tricast: £93.29.

5.30 (3m 2f 110yd ch) 1. Silvorino (S Burrough, 14-1); 2. Top Javalin (5-4 fav); 3. Bournel (6-1). 6 ran. Dist, 1½l. P Rodford. Tote: £12.80; £3.40, £1.40. DF: £7.90. CSF: £31.38.

Placepot: £55.50. Quadpot: £27.00.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Cheltenham: 2.00 Pomme Secret, 2.35 Ocean Hawk, 4.30 Elzoba, 5.40 Slow Man. Hexham: 3.35 Pennine Pride.

Pick up the phone
PICK UP A £10*FREE BET
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TOTE CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP
3 miles 2½ furlongs, Cheltenham 3.15pm, Live on CH4 TV.
SPECIAL TRICAST RACE

5/1	Imperial Call	14/1	Unguided Missile
11/2	Coome Hill	16/1	Challenger Du Luc
7/1	One Man	16/1	Mr Mulligan
15/2	Danoli	28/1	Nahthen Lad
8/1	Doran's Pride	40/1	Banjo
8/1	Dublin Flyer	66/1	Barton Bank
9/1	Addington Boy	66/1	Go Ballistic
10/1	Cyborgo		

Each-Way One Quarter the odds a place 1,2,3.

ELITE RACING CLUB TRIUMPH HURDLE
2 miles 1 furlong, Cheltenham 2.00pm, Live on CH4 TV.
SPECIAL TRICAST RACE

4/1	White Sea	33/1	Mr Wild
11/2	L'Opera	40/1	Double Agent
11/1	Shooting Light	40/1	Evriza
7/1	Commanche Court	40/1	Serenus
7/1	Kerawi	50/1	Mutanassib
12/1	Stylish Allure	66/1	Always Happy
14/1	King's Witness	66/1	Belmarita
14/1	No More Hassle	66/1	Exalted
25/1	Pomme Secret	66/1	Seattle Alley
28/1	Hayaain	100/1	Merawang
33/1	Circus Star	100/1	Pleasureland
33/1	Harbet House	200/1	Palamon
33/1	Marlonette	200/1	Society Girl
33/1	Miss Roberto	200/1	Warning Reef

Each-Way One Quarter the odds a place 1,2,3,4. Above races: Prices subject to fluctuation. Available up to First Show. Tattersalls Rule 4(c) may apply. Non runner - no bet.

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RACING

Coome Hill can complete rise to chasing peak

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

CHELTENHAM
97
FESTIVAL

USING logic for which his fellow countrymen are renowned, a respected Irish racing writer yesterday surveyed the runners for the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup and declared: "Nothing can win."

As unseasonally dry conditions continue to afflict the Prestbury Park bowl, where up to 15 of the best steeplechasers in training will line up for jump racing's most coveted prize today, it is is easy to understand what he meant. The unwanted arrival of summer weather leaves punters with a series of awkward choices.

The ground on the New course, over which the Gold Cup is run, is likely to be good to firm unless the weather breaks. Unfortunately, the fast surface will hinder rather than help the horses with the best form.

So backers must decide to what extent the prevailing conditions will reduce, or even snuff out, the chances of the top horses. Can members of the "second division", at home on quicker terrain, make sufficient improvement to challenge for honours? Add to that the number of novices which are running here and the uncomfortable statistic that a third of the field has fallen during their last two outings and the race is made for the "too difficult" tray.

In such an open contest, it is tempting fate to suggest some of the runners have next to no chance of winning but a victory for **Go Ballistic** or **Banjo** will evoke comparisons with Norton's Coin, who obliged at 100-1 in 1990. At the age of 11, **Barton Bank** has surely had his chances.

The ground will be of greatest disservice to **Dorans Pride**, the Stayers' Hurdle winner of two years ago, who has been an exciting recruit to the fencing ranks this term. Apart from an uncharacteristic blunder at Thurles last time, his jumping has been impeccable but the Michael Hourigan-trained novice does need some cut. **Nahthen Lad**, winner of the Sun Alliance Chase 12 months ago, also appreciates mud.

Gordon Richards saddles three but the Greystoke trainer has a lamentable record at the Festival, not having saddled a winner for more than a decade.

Unguided Missile is a doubtful stayer and will struggle to reverse Wincanton form with Coome Hill. **One Man** is arguably the form choice judged on his victory in the King George VI Chase but a combination of this track and his tame effort at Ascot last time underlines his vulnerability. **Addington Boy**, proven on this course, should relish this trip but had heat in a leg earlier this week, which hardly inspires confidence.

Opposing Martin Pipe-trained runners this week is dangerous but **Challenger Du Luc** needs to find considerable improvement. **Dublin Flyer's** victory in the Ladbroke Chase at Cheltenham in January was his best effort but will the Tim Forster-trained chaser stay this trip? The trainer has his doubts and so do I, although it would be marvellous to be proved wrong.

Danoli will carry the hopes of most Irish people and if Tom Foley's charismatic chaser puts in a clear round he will go very close; but his jumping remains a big worry.

Imperial Call was an exceptional winner 12 months ago and his latest home work has suggested a return to somewhere near his best but a badly interrupted campaign this term does not bode well.

All of which leaves my shortlist. **Mr Mulligan** would have finished a good second to One Man at Kempton but for falling at the last. On ideal ground and with Tony McCoy riding, he can make the frame. **Cyborgo's** best form is on soft going but the going was good when he won the Stayers' Hurdle here last year. If he adapts to this faster surface the progressive novice has the ability to be involved in the finish.

However, I side with Britain's most progressive chaser this year. Coome Hill won the Hennessy Gold Cup and although he is best on easier ground, the Walter Dennis-trained eight-year-old has decent form on firmer ground than he will meet today.

At Wincanton three weeks ago, he won the Jim Ford Chase, the form of which was boosted by the success of third-placed Hanakham in the Royal SunAlliance Chase yesterday. **COOME HILL** will be much more at home on this left-handed, galloping course and his excellent jumping and proven stamina are positive pointers in a race full of doubts.

TIM CUFF

Coome Hill and Dennis face their biggest test in today's Cheltenham Gold Cup

White Sea can make waves in Triumph Hurdle

GUIDE TO THE FESTIVAL TODAY

2.00: L'Opera did particularly well to win a decent juvenile race at Kempton on his hurdling debut 19 days ago. Kerawi was 2½ lengths away that day but will be fancied to reverse the form on 4lb better terms around this stiffer track. Kerawi had previously been fortunate to beat White Sea at Newbury because of a rare riding error by Charlie Swan. **White Sea**, who had previously beaten Shooting Light by five lengths on his hurdling debut, can make amends for Martin Pipe here. Shooting Light, a good winner over course and distance seven weeks ago, is the danger.

2.35: Trainglot should reverse Ascot form with Ocean Hawk, who is better going right-handed, and Jimmy Fitzgerald's fast ground-loving veteran, winner of the Coral Cup here 12 months ago, would have a sound chance if reproducing the form which saw him beat What A Question at Wetherby in the autumn. The David Nicholson-trained pair, Anzum and Escartefigue, hold solid form claims but both appreciate easier ground. **Pridwell** is not a horse to trust implicitly but Pipe's mercurial performer saves his best for Cheltenham on fast ground. Third in last year's Champion Hurdle and a respectable seventh in Tuesday's renewal, he should appreciate today's fast-run race and his breeding suggests he can see out this trip.

3.15: see left.

3.55: The ground is against Fantus, What A Hand and Holland House today and **Double Silk** is the most reliable alternative (Carl Evans writes). It took him a long time to get over his Grand National fall in 1994 but he is back to his best, according to rider Ron Treloggen. The 13-year-old's jumping and stamina are not in doubt and he does not mind quick ground. Cab On Target and Lord Relic were high-class in their youth but not impressive on their latest starts. The Jogger's stamina is open to question while Copper Thistle's Leicester win was on sticky ground. Mr Golightly and Still In Business have each-way possibilities.

4.30: Lightly weighted first-season chasers have a good record in this race and there is a chance the handicapper has been lenient with the Pipe-trained **Elzoba**. Significantly, the former French-trained horse has been without his customary blinkers since moving here, and, as with Or Royal in the Arkle, Pipe has refitted the headgear today. Mister Oddy, fourth in this race last year, recorded a rare below-par effort at Newbury 13 days ago but has solid claims judged on two earlier successes. Certainly Strong has been laid out for this and a clear round will take him close but the biggest danger may be posed by Time Won't Wait, who relishes a fast-run race on this ground.

5.05: Pipe is wasting no time running Or Royal, who prevailed in a thrilling finish to the Arkle on Tuesday. A reproduction of that form would take him close, but the blinkered six-year-old had a hard race and I am keen on **Sparky Gayle**. Colin Parker's stable star was more than a stone better than his rivals over hurdles and, unbeaten in four chases, he looks as though he could be equally good over fences. The seven-year-old won on fast ground last year and appreciates a stiff track. Double Symphony is not out of it.

5.40: A light weight is traditionally a prerequisite in this race and three runners stand out. Hamilton Silk produced his best effort to chase home Tuesday's Champion Hurdle winner. Make A Stand, in the Tote Gold Trophy and the Pipe runner has decent form on fast ground. Carlito Brigante continued Paul Webber's fine run of form when winning the Imperial Cup at Sandown on Saturday and will love this fast surface. However, **Tom Brodie**, whose ideal conditions are two miles on fast ground with a stiff finish, is preferred. The winner of three races earlier in the season, he later finished a good fourth to Make A Stand at Kempton and is weighted to beat Hamilton Silk.

RICHARD EVANS

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: TOM BRODIE
(5.40 Cheltenham)
Next best: Sparky Gayle
(5.05 Cheltenham)

Richard Evans selected Hanakham (13-2) at Cheltenham yesterday, while Thunderer found Alice's Minor (12-1) at Newton Abbot.

BIG RACE LINE-UP

3.15 TOTE CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP CHASE

C4

(Grade I: £134,810: 3m 2f 110yd) (15 runners)

301	111-312	ADDINGTON BOY 47 (C,D,F,G,S) (Gott Foods Ltd) G Richards 9-12-0 *Red and white diamonds, blue sleeves, blue cap, red diamond*	A Dobbin	85
302	111131/	BANJO 706 (F,S) (D Mercer) D Nicholson 7-12-0 *Black, white hoops, black sleeves, white spots*	D Bridgwater	–
303	20-2532	BARTON BANK 47 (C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs J Mould) D Nicholson 11-12-0 *Emerald green, white stars, emerald green cap, white star*	D Walsh	76
304	23-1F61	CHALLENGER DU LUC 35 (B,C,F,G,S) (D Johnson) M Pipe 7-12-0 *Blue, emerald green sleeves, white cap, emerald Green spots*	C Maude	68
305	2-111F1	COOME HILL 21 (C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs J Daniels) W Dennis 8-12-0 *Dark blue, white cross belts, white cap, dark blue star*	J Osborne	82
306	2/14-111	CYBORGO 26 (D,G,S) (County Stores Ltd) M Pipe 7-12-0 *Yellow, maroon cross belts, blue sleeves, blue and yellow quartered cap*	C F Swan	77
307	11F1FT	DANOLI 39 (F,G,S) (D O'Neill) T Foley (Ire) 9-12-0 *Blue and white diabolo, white sleeves, blue cap, white star*	T P Treacy	90
308	11111F	DORANS PRIDE 28 (BF,G,S) (T Doran) M Hourigan (Ire) 8-12-0 *Emerald green, red stars, emerald green cap, red star*	J P Broderick	89
309	11P-S11	DUBLIN FLYER 47 (C,D,G,S) (J Sumner) T Forster 11-12-0 *Green, yellow sleeves, white cap*	B Powell	97
310	1-4121F	GO BALLISTIC 40 (F,G,S) (Mrs B Lockhart) J O'Shea 8-12-0 *Turquoise and silver diamonds*	M A Fitzgerald	50
311	F111-43	IMPERIAL CALL 38 (CD,BF,G,S) (Lisselan Farms) F Sutherland (Ire) 8-12-0 *Blue and yellow diabolo, yellow sleeves and cap*	C O'Dwyer	[illegible]
312	1112-4F	MR MULLIGAN 77 (F,G,S) (M And G Worcester) N Chance 9-12-0 *Light blue, black sleeves, red seams, black and light blue quartered cap*	A P McCoy	87
313	121-6P2	NAHTHEN LAD 26 (C,G,S) (J Shaw) Mrs J Pitman 8-12-0 *White, black stars, white sleeves, black cap*	R Farrant	69
314	16-1112	ONE MAN 36 (C,D,BF,F,G,S) (J Hales) G Richards 9-12-0 *Yellow, red star, yellow sleeves, white armlets, yellow cap, red star*	R Dunwoody	98
315	23-1222	UNGUIDED MISSILE 21 (C,BF,F,G,S) (D Harrison) G Richards 9-12-0 *Light blue, dark blue triple diamond, diamonds on sleeves and cap*	N Williamson	83

BETTING: 5-1 Imperial Call, 11-2 Coome Hill, 7-1 Dorans Pride, 8-1 Danoli, Dublin Flyer, One Man, 10-1 Addington Boy, 12-1 Challenger Du Luc, 14-1 Cyborgo, 16-1 Mr Mulligan, Nahthen Lad, 20-1 others.

1996: IMPERIAL CALL 7-12-0 C O'Dwyer (9-2) F Sutherland (Ire) 10 ran

COMPREHENSIVE FORM GUIDE TO THE 15 CONTENDERS

ADDINGTON BOY

Jan 25, Cheltenham: see Dublin Flyer.
Dec 14 1996, Cheltenham, good to firm: (11-10) beat Go Universal (10-6) 6l (2m 5l, h'cap ch, £37,690, 10 ran)
Nov 16 1996, Cheltenham: see Challenger Du Luc.

BANJO

Apr 7 1995, Aintree, good to firm: (11-0) beat Kadi (11-9) 14l (3m 1f, gd II nov ch, £22,168, 4 ran)
Mar 15 1995, Cheltenham, soft: (10-8) 24l 3rd of 13 to Brief Gale (10-13) with Unguided Missile (11-4) fell 4 out (3m 1f, gd I nov ch, £49,163, 13 ran)

BARTON BANK

Jan 25, Cheltenham: see One Man.
Dec 26 1996, Kempton: see One Man.
Nov 16 1996, Cheltenham: see Challenger Du Luc.
Mar 14 1996, Cheltenham: see Imperial Call.

CHALLENGER DU LUC

Feb 6, Wincanton, good to firm: (12-0) beat Beatson (11-6) 5l (2m 5f, ch, £6,613, 4 ran)
Jan 25, Cheltenham: see Dublin Flyer.
Nov 30 1996, Newbury: see Coome Hill.
Nov 16 1996, Cheltenham, good to firm (10-2) beat Strong Promise (10-0) head with Addington Boy (10-10) 3½l 3rd, Barton Bank (11-5) 10l 5th and Dublin Flyer (12-0) slipped up 4 out.

COOME HILL

Feb 20, Wincanton, good: (11-2) beat Unguided Missile (11-8) 1½l (3m 1f 110yd, ch, £12,055, 7 ran)
Feb 1, Sandown, good to firm: (11-12) fell 2nd behind Dextra Dove (11-2) with Go Ballistic (11-0) fell 18th (3m 110yd, gd II h'cap ch, £24,059, 6 ran)
Nov 30 1996, Newbury, good: (10-0) beat The Grey Monk (10-3) 4l with Challenger Du Luc (10-10) fell 14th (3m 2f 110yd, gd III h'cap ch, £48,283, 11 ran)

CYBORGO

Feb 15, Chepstow, soft: (12-0) beat Buckhouse Boy (11-8) 9l (3m, nov ch, £3,513, 14 ran)
Feb 8, Newbury, good (11-8) beat Buckhouse Boy (11-12) 6l (3m, nov ch, £5,085, 7 ran).

DANOLI

Feb 2, Leopardstown, good to yielding: (12-0) beat Jodami (12-0) 1½l with Imperial Call (12-0) 20l 3rd (3m, gd I ch, £62,500, 8 ran)
Jan 19, Leopardstown, good (12-0) fell 3rd behind Mulligan (12-0) (2m 1f, gd II ch, £9,675, 6 ran)

DORANS PRIDE

Feb 13, Thurles, soft: (12-0) fell 2 out behind Merry Gale (12-0) (2m 4f, gd II Ch, £9,675, 5 ran).
Feb 2, Leopardstown, good to yielding (12-0) beat See More Business (12-0) 6l (3m 5l, nov ch, £9,750, 4 ran)

DUBLIN FLYER

Jan 25, Cheltenham, good (12-0) beat Addington Boy (11-4) 2l with Challenger Du Luc (10-13) 28½l 6th (2m 5l, h'cap ch, £16,938, 7 ran)
Nov 26 1996, Huntingdon, good to soft: (11-1) beat Gales Cavalier (11-10) 18l (2m 4l 110yd, gd II Ch, £18,125, 6 ran)
Nov 16 1996, Cheltenham see Challenger Du Luc.
Mar 14 1996, Cheltenham: see Imperial Call.

GO BALLISTIC

Feb 1, Sandown see Coome Hill.
Dec 21 1996, Ascot, good to firm (10-0) beat Unguided Missile (11-11) 1½l (3m 110yd, h'cap ch, £24,379, 9 ran).

IMPERIAL CALL

Feb 2, Leopardstown see Danoli.
Dec 7 1996, Punchestown, yielding (12-0) clear when fell last behind Royal Mountbrowne (11-8) (2m 4l, gd I ch, £22,750, 6 ran)
Mar 14 1996, Cheltenham, good: (12-0) beat Rough Quest (12-0) 4l with Barton Bank (12-0) 22l 4th, One Man (12-0) neck and 8l 6th and Dublin Flyer (12-0) pulled up 2 out (3m 2f 110yd, gd I ch, £131,156, 10 ran).

MR MULLIGAN

Dec 26 1996, Kempton. see One Man.
Dec 7 1996, Chepstow, good to soft. (11-12) 13½l 4th to Belmont King (10-8) (3m, gd II h'cap ch, £18,822, 7 ran).
Mar 13 1996, Cheltenham. see Nahthen Lad.

NAHTHEN LAD

Feb 15, Chepstow, soft. (11-12) 6l 2nd to Air Shot (11-0) (2m 3l 110yd ch, £6,775, 5 ran).
Jan 18, Haydock: see Unguided Missile.
Dec 18 1996, Bangor, good: (11-10) 26l 6th of 7 to Freddie Muck (11-0) (3m, h'cap hdle, £4,765, 7 ran).
Mar 13 1996, Cheltenham, good to soft: (11-4) beat Mr Mulligan (11-4) 8l (3m 1l, gd I nov ch, £54,673, 12 ran).

ONE MAN

Feb 5, Ascot, good to firm: (11-7) 1l 2nd of 4 to Strong Promise (11-7) (2m 3f 110yd, gd I ch, £37,032, 4 ran)
Jan 25, Cheltenham, good: (11-12) beat Barton Bank (11-12) head (3m 1f 110yd, ch, £16,775, 4 ran)
Dec 26 1996, Kempton, good to firm: (11-10) beat Rough Quest (11-10) 12l with Barton Bank (11-10) 9l 3rd and Mr Mulligan (11-10) 2nd and beaten when fell last (3m, gd I Ch, £63,325, 5 ran).
Mar 14 1996, Cheltenham: see Imperial Call.

UNGUIDED MISSILE

Feb 20, Wincanton: see Coome Hill.
Jan 18, Haydock, good to firm: (11-6) neck 2nd to Jodami (11-10) with Nahthen Lad (11-4) pulled up 14th (3m, gd II h'cap ch, £24,776, 6 ran).
Dec 21 1996, Ascot: see Go Ballistic.
Mar 15 1995, Cheltenham: see Banjo.

Selection: IMPERIAL CALL

CHELTENHAM

THUNDERER

2.00 Stylish Allure	3.55 Holland House
2.35 What A Question	4.30 Certainly Strong
3.15 Nahthen Lad	5.05 Stately Home
	5.40 **EMBELLISHED** (nap)

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:
3.55 HOLLAND HOUSE.

Carl Evans: 3.55 Double Silk.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM   TOTE JACKPOT MEETING   SIS

2.00 ELITE RACING CLUB TRIUMPH HURDLE

C4

(Grade I: 4-Y-O: £44,290: 2m 1f) (28 runners)

101	42P22	CIRCUS STAR 13 (The Ringmasters) D Nicholson 11-0	R Johnson	73
102	11	COMMANCHE COURT 25 (G,S) (D Desmond) T Walsh (Ire) 11-0	N Williamson	98
103	611	DOUBLE AGENT 19 (F,G) (Hertford Offset Limited) J Howard Johnson 11-0	A Dobbin	68
104	24	EXALTED 21 (Mrs B Jenks) W Jenks 11-0	T Jenks	58
105	F1	HARBET HOUSE 29 (S) (C Washbourn) R O'Sullivan 11-0	D O'Sullivan	77
106	14	HAYAAIN 26 (G) (Quicksilver Racing Ptnrs) K Bailey 11-0	J Railton	77
107	14B12	KERAWI 19 (BF,G) (M Archer & Miss J Broadhurst) N Twiston-Davies 11-0	C Llewellyn	97
108	41	KINGS WITNESS 21 (S) (J Hardie) P Nicholls 11-0	D Bridgwater	80
109	1	L'OPERA 19 (G) (Sheikh Ahmed Al Maktoum) D Nicholson 11-0	J Osborne	91
110	33	MERAWANG 24 (The Triumph Hopefuls) P Nicholls 11-0	P Hide	50
111	UF240	MR WILD 26 (A Spence) R Akehurst 11-0	J Culloty	79
112	203	MUTAHASSIB 20 (M Jones) M Pipe 11-0	C Maude	87
113	0111	NO MORE HASSLE 19 (D,G,S) (The No Hassle Ptnrs) Mrs M Reveley 11-0	P Niven	73
114	0050	PALAMON 26 (J White) J White 11-0	T J Murphy	50
115	263031	PLEASURELAND 10 (G) (Mrs S McGarvie) R Curtis 11-0	D Morris	68
116	10	POMME SECRET 30 (B,D,BF,G) (Elite Racing Club) M Pipe 11-0	A P McCoy	63
117	6033	SEATTLE ALLEY 5 (L & P Partnership) P Webber 11-0	J A McCarthy	56
118	3511F6	SERENUS 19 (G,S) (W & Mrs E Robins) N Henderson 11-0	M A Fitzgerald	50
119	121	SHOOTING LIGHT 47 (CD,G) (J Brown) P Murphy 11-0	R Dunwoody	94
120	1	STYLISH ALLURE 11 (S) (P Byrnes) D Weld (Ire) 11-0	C O'Dwyer	93
121	3056	WARNING REEF 22 (B) (P Emery, A Staple, A Wreford) C Popham 11-0	W Marston	50
122	212241	ALWAYS HAPPY 21 (D,F,G) (C Fleet) Miss G Kelleway 10-9	T Dascombe	70
123	26501	BELMARITA 6 (D,G) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 10-9	Michael Brennan	66
124	115P05	EVRIZA 39 (B,F,G) (Brig Gen J Beary) A O'Brien (Ire) 10-9	T Horgan	84
125	515411	MARLONETTE 23 (G,S) (J Doran) W Mullins (Ire) 10-9	D J Casey	87
126	612603	MISS ROBERTO 25 (G) (Mrs T Dalton) M Brassil (Ire) 10-9	K O'Brien	93
127	00	SOCIETY GIRL 36 (H Llewellyn) J O'Shea 10-9	J R Kavanagh	50
128	12	WHITE SEA 34 (BF,G) (T Hely-Hutchinson) M Pipe 10-9	C F Swan	[illegible]

BETTING: 9-2 White Sea, 6-1 Kerawi, L'Opera, Shooting Light, 7-1 Commanche Court, 10-1 Stylish Allure, 14-1 Kings Witness, 16-1 No More Hassle, 25-1 Evriza, Hayaain, Serenus, 33-1 others

1996: PADDY'S RETURN 11-0 R Dunwoody (10-1) F Murphy 29 ran

FORM FOCUS

COMMANCHE COURT beat Grimes 5l in 8-runner grade III Juvenile Hurdle at Punchestown (2m, soft) with MISS ROBERTO 1l 3rd. KERAWI beat WHITE SEA 1¾l in 13-runner novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good) KINGS WITNESS beat Sulawesi 14l in novice hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to soft) with EXALTED 18l 4th. L'OPERA beat KERAWI (4lb better off) 2½l in grade II Adonis Hurdle at Kempton (2m, good) SHOOTING LIGHT beat Noble Lord 6l in 8-runner grade II Finesse Hurdle over course and distance (good), previously beat PLEASURELAND 5l in 8-runner novice hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good) with SERENUS 8½l 5th. WHITE SEA beat SHOOTING LIGHT (5lb better off) 5l in 21-runner novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good) with PLEASURELAND 37½l 6th and WARNING REEF 32½l 11th.
Selection: WHITE SEA

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GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused D — disqualified) Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner BF — beaten favourite in latest race) Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard G — good S — soft, good to soft, heavy) Owner in brackets. Trainer Age and weight Rider plus any allowance The Times Private Handicapper's rating

2.35 BONUSPRINT STAYERS HURDLE

C4

(Grade I: £53,440: 3m 110yd) (17 runners)

201	36/03-13	ANZUM 26 (G,S) (The Old Foresters Ptnrs) D Nicholson 6-11-10	R Johnson	84
202	1-36230	DERRYMOYLE 18 (D,F,G,S) (H Stanley) M Cunningham (Ire) 8-11-10	J P Broderick	94
203	4/5-3231	EALING COURT 12 (D,G) (R Brookhouse) N Babbage 8-11-10	B Fenton	50
204	432-533	ESCARTEFIGUE 19 (S) (D Mercer) D Nicholson 5-11-10	D Bridgwater	[illegible]
205	13P-213	KARSHI 34 (C,F,G) (Lord Vestey) Miss H Knight 7-11-10	J Osborne	84
206	6-12110	OCEAN HAWK 19 (B,D,BF,F,G,S) (M Archer) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-10	C Llewellyn	96
207	221-3F0	PADDY'S RETURN 33 (B,C,F,G) (P O'Donnell) F Murphy 5-11-10	R Hughes	83
208	F0-5420	PRIDWELL 2 (C,F,G,S) (Jones, Berstock and Fleet Ptnrs) M Pipe 7-11-10	A P McCoy	97
209	152024-	SOHRAB 313 (S) (J & J Richards) M Pipe 9-11-10	C Maude	80
210	112155	TARRS BRIDGE 19 (B,CD,F,G) (The Tuesday Syndicate) C Mann 6-11-10	J Magee	75
211	P64348	TOP SPIN 19 (D,F,G,S) (J Duncan) J Jenkins 8-11-10	T J Murphy	79
212	151-605	TRAGIC HERO 19 (B,G,S) (Knight Hawks Ptnrs) M Pipe 5-11-10	J Evans	83
213	111-132	TRAINGLOT 82 (C,F,G,S) (Marquesa de Moratalla) J Fitzgerald 10-11-10	R Dunwoody	90
214	14-1240	URUBANDE 33 (C,F,G,S) (M St Quinton) A O'Brien (Ire) 7-11-10	C F Swan	87
215	U492U3	WISLEY WONDER 34 (C,F,G,S) (Wisley Golf Ptnrs) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-10	D Walsh	64
216	3/21-2F2	CONQUERING LEADER 19 (D,G,S) (Mrs R Proctor) N Henderson 8-11-5	M A Fitzgerald	95
217	021511	WHAT A QUESTION 33 (D,G,S) (Mrs M Valentine) M Morris (Ire) 9-11-5	C O'Dwyer	98

BETTING: 3-1 Escartefigue, 5-1 Urubande, 11-2 What A Question, 7-1 Conquering Leader, Ocean Hawk, Trainglot, 12-1 Pridwell, 20-1 Anzum, Karshi, Paddy's Return, 25-1 Derrymoyle, 33-1 others.

1996: CYBORGO 6-11-10 D Bridgwater (8-1) M Pipe 19 ran

FORM FOCUS

ANZUM beat Burnt Imp head in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 6f, good) KARSHI beat Mandys Mantino 4l in hurdle here (2m 4f, good to firm) PRIDWELL 1¾l 2nd to Large Action in grade I Cleeve Hurdle here (2m 5f 110yd, good) TRAINGLOT beat Treasure Again head in handicap hurdle here (2m 5l, good to soft) Mar 96, with SOHRAB 19l 12th. CONQUERING LEADER 2l 2nd to Pharanear in grade II Rendlesham Hurdle at Kempton (3m 110yd, good) with ESCARTEFIGUE (4lb better off) head 3rd, TARRS BRIDGE (6lb worse off) 6l 5th, TOP SPIN (6lb worse off) 19l 6th and OCEAN HAWK (8lb better off) about 34l 8th. WHAT A QUESTION beat Antapoura 2½l in grade II Boyne EBF Hurdle at Navan (3m, yielding) with DERRYMOLE (9lb worse off) 3½l 3rd and URUBANDE (5lb worse off) 36l 8th.
Selection: ANZUM (nap)

3.15 TOTE CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP CHASE

C4

(Grade I: £134,810. 3m 2f 110yd) (15 runners)

RUNNERS AND RIDERS — SEE ABOVE

3.55 CHRISTIES FOXHUNTER CHASE CHALLENGE CUP

C4

(Amateurs: £19,868: 3m 2f 110yd) (18 runners)

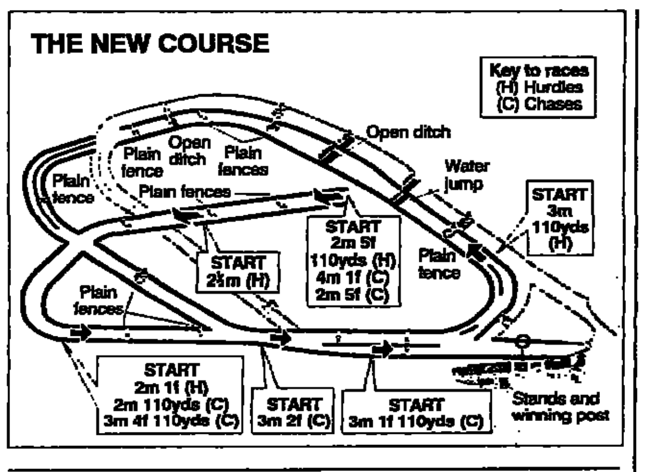
401	14P2-11	CAB ON TARGET 27 (F,G,S) (N Hurst) Mrs M Reveley 11-12-0	S Swiers	98
402	42/12-P	CELTIC ABBEY 31 (BF,F,G,S) (G Powell) Mrs C Hardinge 9-12-0	D S Jones	92
403	22P-33	CLOBRACKEN LAD 13 (F,G) (T Swaffield) Mrs T Swaffield 9-12-0	G Baines	54
404	06004/	CLONROSH SLAVE 732P (R Tyner) R Tyner (Ire) 10-12-0	S Hadden	–
405	1F21-P3	COLONIAL KELLY 14 (F,G,S) (Cockerell Cowing Racing) Mrs D Cowell 9-12-0	P Hacking	70
406	2P-11	COPPER THISTLE 9 (F,G,S) (R Hunnisett) N Pomfret 9-12-0	R Hunnisett	60
407	35/121-1	DOUBLE SILK 35 (CD,F,G,S) (R Wilkins) R Wilkins 13-12-0	R Treloggen	96
408	11/2F	FANTUS 12P (CD,G,S) (J Keighley) R Barber 10-12-0	T Mitchell	–
409	1511-U1	HOLLAND HOUSE 13 (C,F,G,S) (E Knight) P Channing 11-12-0	C Vigors	[illegible]
410	PP6-212	LORD RELIC 12 (BF,G,S) (Mrs H Clarke) S Brookshaw 11-12-0	R Ford	80
411	RU112P-	MR GOLIGHTLY 285 (F,G,S) (Mrs B Cobden) Mrs S Cobden 10-12-0	Mrs S Godfrey	87
412	133-342	MY NOMINEE 12P (B,C,F,G,S) (D Nicholls) D Nicholls 9-12-0	R Burton	88
413	11-11	STILL IN BUSINESS 40P (F,G,S) (R Williams) R Barber 9-12-0	Miss P Curling	80
414	U-3	TEARAWAY KING 96 (Mrs N McManus) E Bolger (Ire) 7-12-0	E Bolger	–
415	11-11	THE JOGGER 20 (F,G) (Mrs P Tizzard) C Tizzard 12-12-0	J Tizzard	80
416	U1/1FP-1	WHAT A HAND 39 (G,S) (F Bonsal) F O'Grady (Ire) 9-12-0	P Fenton	89
417	64-43	FINAL PRIDE 12P (BF,F,G,S) (G Barnett) Mrs C Higgon (Ire) 11-11-9	Miss P Jones	54
418	1F-12	MISS MILLBROOK 13 (G,S) (D Goldsworthy) D Goldsworthy 9-11-9	F Williams	88

BETTING. 7-2 Cab On Target, 5-1 Holland House, 6-1 Double Silk, 7-1 Fantus, 8-1 What A Hand, 10-1 others.

1996: ELEGANT LORD 8-12-0 E Bolger (3-1 fav) E Bolger (Ire) 17 ran

FORM FOCUS

CAB ON TARGET beat Arise 1¾l in hunter chase at Fakenham (2m 5f 110yd, good) COPPER THISTLE beat Elmore 11l in maiden hunter chase at Leicester (3m, good) DOUBLE SILK beat Visaga 16l in hunter chase at Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, good to firm) FANTUS beat HOLLAND HOUSE 20l in 13-runner hunter chase over course and distance (soft) Mar 95, with DOUBLE SILK 23l 5th and CELTIC ABBEY fell 2 out. HOLLAND HOUSE beat MISS MILLBROOK 12l in hunter chase at Newbury (3m, good to soft) with CLOBRACKEN LAD (10lb worse off) 28l 3rd. MY NOMINEE beat MR GOLIGHTLY head in hunter chase here (2m 5f, good) May 96. STILL IN BUSINESS beat Buckenfield 2l in 7-runner point to point at Larkhill (3m, good to firm) THE JOGGER beat Mistune 1½l in 6-runner hunter chase at Kempton (3m, good)
Selection: HOLLAND HOUSE



4.30 125TH YEAR OF THE CHELTENHAM GRAND ANNUAL CHASE CHALLENGE CUP

(Handicap: £28,679: 2m 110yd) (16 runners)

501	03-31F2	DANCING PADDY 33 (CD,F,G,S) (Bychance Racing) K Cunningham-Brown 9-12-0	D Walsh	90
502	15-0254	KIBREET 40 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs J Emery) P Hobbs 10-11-9	N Williamson	94
503	331-434	UNCLE ERNIE 19 (D,G,S) (Lady Lloyd Webber) J Fitzgerald 12-11-4	G Bradley	98
504	6-20422	EASTHORPE 33 (CD,F,G,S) (M Broughton) Miss H Knight 9-11-3	J F Titley	96
505	0/211-1F	CERTAINLY STRONG 27 (D,BF,F,G,S) (N Skelton) D Nicholson 7-11-1	R Dunwoody	97
506	5224-43	TIME WON'T WAIT 47 (D,BF,F,G) (Old Berks Ptnrs) R Phillips 8-11-1	J Railton	94
507	3-12113	MISTER ODDY 13 (CD,BF,G,S) (Mrs R Hill) J King 11-11-0	J Culloty	[illegible]
508	30351-P	CABLE BEACH 25 (D,F,G) (H Stanley) M Cunningham (Ire) 8-10-11	C O'Dwyer	91
509	113531	POLITICAL TOWER 14 (D,F,G,S) (G Nixon) R Nixon 10-10-11 (3ex)	A Dobbin	96
510	036PF1	ELZOBA 24 (B,D,S) (D Johnson) M Pipe 5-10-8	A P McCoy	90
511	1-1311-0	STORM FALCON 35 (CD,F,G) (E Dalby) S Mellor 7-10-2	Chris Webb (5)	90
512	3-22F12	SUPER COIN 34 (D,F,S) (G Brookes) R Lee 9-10-1	R Johnson	92
513	332112	SCOBIE BOY 42 (D,G,S) (R Shaw) R Shaw 9-10-1	J P Broderick	91
514	121022	GAROLO 28 (B,D,S) (Lady Lloyd Webber) C Brooks 7-10-0	J Osborne	92
515	42/232P	PERKNAPP 25 (D,G,S) (Mrs S Purcell) A Martin (Ire) 10-10-0	C F Swan	92
516	412/13-3	NORSE RAIDER 36 (D,BF,F,G) (P Fyvie) M Pipe 7-10-0	C Maude	85

Long handicap: Garolo 9-12 Perknapp 9-11, Norse Raider 9-7

BETTING 4-1 Certainly Strong, 9-2 Elzoba, 6-1 Easthorpe, Garolo, Time Won't Wait, 10-1 Super Coin, 12-1 Kibreet, 14-1 Uncle Ernie 16-1 Dancing Paddy, Mister Oddy, Political Tower, 20-1 others.

1996. KIBREET 9-10-12 A P McCoy (7-1) P Hobbs 13 ran

FORM FOCUS

DANCING PADDY beat KIBREET (4lb better off) 3½l in 3-runner handicap chase over course and distance (good to firm). EASTHORPE 2½l 2nd of 5 to Konvekta King in handicap chase at Haydock (2m, good to firm) on penultimate start, with POLITICAL TOWER (2lb worse off) 2½l 3rd and TIME WON'T WAIT (1lb better off) 1¼l 4th. CERTAINLY STRONG beat Wee River 3l in 4-runner handicap chase at Sandown (2m good to firm) on penultimate start. MISTER ODDY beat Lord Dorcet 13l in 4-runner handicap chase at Sandown (2m, good) with CERTAINLY STRONG fell at 4th. ELZOBA beat Healthyards Boy distance in 5-runner novice chase at Hereford (2m, soft). STORM FALCON beat Berlone 1¼l in 4-runner novice chase over course and distance (good to firm) on penultimate start, with NORSE RAIDER (2lb better off) 6l 3rd.
Selection: DANCING PADDY

5.05 CATHCART CHALLENGE CUP CHASE (£32,850: 2m 5f) (10 runners)

601	54-2343	DESTIN D'ESTRUVAL 20 (BF,S) (D Mercer) D Nicholson 6-11-7	D Bridgwater	70
602	2F32-11	DOUBLE SYMPHONY 33 (G,S) (A Pye-Jeary) C Brooks 9-11-7	G Bradley	98
603	1U44-01	MANHATTAN CASTLE 53 (G,S) (P Fitzpatrick) A Moore (Ire) 8-11-7	F Woods	94
604	11-1233	MAJOR BELL 19 (F,G,S) (I Middlemiss) A Whillans 9-11-3	A Dobbin	94
605	01-1121	OR ROYAL 2 (B,C,G,S) (D Johnson) M Pipe 6-11-3	A P McCoy	[illegible]
606	2FRU-36	PIMBERLEY PLACE 110 (G,S) (A Cresser) N Twiston-Davies 9-11-3	C Llewellyn	75
607	54-1111	SPARKY GAYLE 33 (F,G,S) (Mr & Mrs R Green) C Parker 7-11-3	B Storey	88
608	41211P	STATELY HOME 19 (F,G) (P Bowen) P Bowen 6-11-3	N Williamson	88
609	30U21F	THE REVEREND BERT 12 (D,G) (The Bolbe Club) G Balding 9-11-0	B Fenton	76
610	F1-3311	WILD WEST WIND 16 (D,G,S) (Lord Vestey) Miss H Knight 7-11-0	J F Titley	81

BETTING: 9-4 Or Royal, 3-1 Double Symphony 9-2 Manhattan Castle, 7-1 Sparky Gayle, 8-1 Stately Home, 10-1 Major Bell 12-1 Wild West Wind 16-1 others

1996 CHALLENGER DU LUC 6-11-3 D Bridgwater (10-1) M Pipe 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

DOUBLE SYMPHONY beat Dancing Paddy 3½l in the 5-runner grade II Game Spirit Chase at Newbury (2m 1f good) MANHATTAN CASTLE beat Arctic Weather 1½l in 8-runner listed handicap chase at Leopardstown (2m 3f good) MAJOR BELL 4l 2nd to Strong Promise in the grade II Gold Cup Handicap Chase at Ascot (2m 3f 110yd good to firm) with PIMPERLEY PLACE (4lb worse off) tailed off. OR ROYAL beat Squire Silk ¾l in the 9-runner grade I Arkle Chase here (2m, good). SPARKY GAYLE beat Lansborough 11l in 6-runner novice chase at Ayr (2m 4l, good to soft) STATELY HOME beat Land Afar 1½l in the 6-runner grade I Scilly Isles Novices' Chase at Sandown (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm) on penultimate start WILD WEST WIND beat Macgeorge ¾l in 5-runner novice chase at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, good)
Selection: DOUBLE SYMPHONY

5.40 VINCENT O'BRIEN COUNTY HANDICAP HURDLE

(Grade III: £26,615: 2m 1f) (23 runners)

1	032015-	STOMPIN 199F (G,S) (The Voice Group Ltd) Miss H Knight 6-11-10	J Culloty	91
2	1111-13	PENNY A DAY 61 (G,S) (J Good) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-8	P Niven	[illegible]
3	0322-02	ROMANCER 21 (B,D,BF,F,G) (M Archer) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-6	C Llewellyn	93
4	1014-24	CHERYL'S LAD 82 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs E Barnes) N Henderson 7-11-4	M A Fitzgerald	92
5	F1F-F16	EDELWEIS DU MOULIN 33 (BF,G,S) (R Ogden) G Richards 5-11-3	R Dunwoody	91
6	0-20106	KADASTROF 5 (G,S) (A Paton) R Dickin 7-11-2	X Aizpuru (7)	95
7	60-312P	STAR RAGE 5 (CD,F,G) (J Abell) J L Harris 7-11-1	D Gallagher	95
8	211324	LADY DAISY 5 (G) (P Kehoe) A Mullins (Ire) 8-11-1	G Bradley	98
9	11110	TOAST THE SPREECE 25 (G,S) (Golden Step Racing) A O'Brien (Ire) 5-11-1	C F Swan	93
10	3-11332	HAMILTON SILK 33 (D,F,G) (Elite Racing Club) M Pipe 5-11-0	A P McCoy	96
11	U-43364	BARNA BOY 34 (G,S) (L Wilson) N Henderson 9-10-12	R Dunwoody	94
12	816-303	EMBELLISHED 39 (G) (The High Street Racing Synd) N Meade (Ire) 5-10-12	R Hughes	97
13	114423	TOM BRODIE 26 (F,G,S) (Mrs M Bird) J Howard Johnson 7-10-10	A Dobbin	95
14	222346	MYTTON'S CHOICE 54 (C,D,F,G) (G Mytton) D Nicholson 6-10-9	Mr R Thornton (5)	91
15	3-35360	GROUND NUT 5 (D,F,S) (Mrs R Haskins) R Buckler 7-10-6	B Powell	94
16	032126	BLACK QUEEN 18 (G) (H Pollmeier) J Kiely (Ire) 6-10-4	A J O'Brien	98
17	40-3124	AMBLESIDE 21 (S) (B Yin) Mrs S Williams 6-10-0	D Bridgwater	96
18	162/604	SLEW MAN 12 (B,S) (B Kilpatrick) M Pipe 6-10-0	D Walsh	–
19	441411	CARLITO BRIGANTE 5 (F,G,S) (Lady Bamford) P Webber 5-10-0 (7ex)	J Osborne	97
20	0-12056	CELTIC LORE 19 (B,G) (Dr M Smurfit) D Weld (Ire) 5-10-0	N Williamson	90
21	140300	TIDJANI 25 (G) (J McManus) F Berry (Ire) 5-10-0	C O'Dwyer	94
22	14-2010	FAUSTINO 159 (F) (The Bilbrook '4') P Hobbs 5-10-0	R Johnson	86
23	123263	MORSTOCK 7 (G) (Mrs M Fairbairn) R Hodges 7-10-0	T Dascombe (3)	81

Long handicap: Slew Man 9-13, Carlito Brigante 9-13, Celtic Lore 9-12, Tidjani 9-11, Faustino 9-8, Morstock 9-8

BETTING: 7-1 Carlito Brigante, 8-1 Hamilton Silk, 10-1 Edelweis Du Moulin, Celtic Lore, Embellished, Penny A Day, 12-1 Romancer, 14-1 Ambleside, Black Queen, Cheryl's Lad, Slew Man, Toast The Spreece, 16-1 Lady Daisy, Star Rage, 20-1 Tidjani, Tom Brodie, 25-1 Barna Boy, Stompin, 33-1 Kadastrof, Mytton's Choice, 50-1 others

1996: STAR RAGE 6-10-0 D Gallagher (14-1) J Harris 28 ran

FORM FOCUS

STOMPIN beat Clifton Beat 1¼l in 17-runner handicap hurdle at Aintree (2m 110yd, good) Mar 96, with STAR RAGE (3lb worse off) ¾l 3rd. PENNY A DAY beat Fascan 3l in 11-runner handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good to soft). CHERYL'S LAD beat New Inn 1¾l in handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good) Feb 96, with STAR RAGE (12lb worse off) 2½l 3rd. STAR RAGE beat Desert Fighter 2½l in handicap hurdle at Catterick (2m, good), previously beat ROMANCER (12lb better off) 3l in 28-runner grade III County Hurdle over course and distance (good) Mar 96, with CHERYL'S LAD (16lb better off) 6l 4th and KADASTROF (21lb better off) 10l 10th. HAMILTON SILK 9l 2nd of 18 to Make A Stand in grade III Tote Gold Trophy Handicap Hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good) with EDELWEIS DU MOULIN (3lb worse off) about 9½l 6th and ROMANCER (7lb better off) about 44½l 16th. BLACK QUEEN head 2nd of 23 to Master Tribe in grade I Ladbroke Limited Handicap Hurdle at Leopardstown (2m, good to yielding) with PENNY A DAY (7lb better off) 6l 3rd. CARLITO BRIGANTE beat Doctoor 2l in 18-runner handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good) with LADY DAISY (6lb better off) 2½l 4th. KADASTROF (1lb worse off) 3½l 6th and STAR RAGE (6lb better off) pulled up
Selection: CARLITO BRIGANTE

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
E O'Grady	4	23	17.4	Mr M Armytage	3	20	15.0
D Nicholson	13	112	11.6	A Maguire	6	44	13.6
N Henderson	9	86	10.5	N Williamson	4	31	12.9
A L T Moore	3	29	10.3	D Bridgwater	5	40	12.5
G Balding	5	54	9.3	A P McCoy	3	24	12.5
M Pipe	15	236	6.4	C Swan	10	82	12.2

☐ Large Action, who was pulled up after two flights of the Champion Hurdle, will not make a quick reappearance in today's Bonusprint Stayers' Hurdle. But the gelding, who was sent of the 7-2 favourite on Tuesday, is not seriously injured and will return to action in the Martell Aintree Hurdle on April 5. His trainer, Oliver Sherwood, said yesterday: "Large Action is 95 per cent sound but he won't run in the Stayers' Hurdle."

TEN-YEAR FESTIVAL STATISTICS

TRIUMPH HURDLE

Favourites/joint-favourites: 1 winner; 0 placed: 11 unplaced.

Training successes: Ireland 3.

STAYERS' HURDLE

Favourites: 4 winners; 3 placed: 3 unplaced

Training successes: Ireland 5; M Pipe 2.

GOLD CUP

Favourites: 2 winners; 2 placed; 6 unplaced.

FOXHUNTERS CHASE

Favourites: 3 winners; 3 placed: 4 unplaced.

GRAND ANNUAL CHASE

Favourites/joint-favourites: 3 winners; 1 placed; 7 unplaced.
Trainer: C Brooks 2.
Jockey: G Bradley 2.

CATHCART CHALLENGE CUP

Favourites/joint-favourites: 2 winners; 3 placed; 6 unplaced.
Trainers: N Henderson 2; M Pipe 2.

COUNTY HURDLE

Favourites: 0 winners; 2 placed; 8 unplaced

FOOTBALL: COCA-COLA CUP TRIUMPH PROVIDES CONSOLATION FOR CONTROVERSIAL DEFEAT AT CHELSEA

Leicester strike blow for underdogs

By Brian Glanville

LEICESTER City could have been at Wembley twice, but at least they will be there once. Had the referee, Mike Reed, not given that contentious penalty against them at Stamford Bridge, perhaps Leicester would have prevailed on penalties against Chelsea and gone on to their fourth Wembley FA Cup Final. As it is, the Coca-Cola final is substantial consolation.

It has been said, since their midweek success, or survival, at Selhurst Park, that Leicester out-Wimbledoned Wimbledon. That is not entirely true. It is true that Leicester equalised Wimbledon's first-half lead with a goal that Wimbledon themselves might well have scored: a long free kick from the right by Garry Parker, that underestimated midfielder, headed in on the far post against a dozing defence by the left wing back, Simon Grayson.

It is also true that the club has put together its team largely from bargain buys and rehabilitated obscurities — though clearly their lithe American goalkeeper, Kasey Keller, bought from Millwall, does not come into that category.

Emile Heskey apart, however, Leicester have no local player in their side. Wimbledon, by contrast, have a remarkable youth policy. Not only have they, for so many years, shopped shrewdly in the football equivalent of Oxfam, they have been admirably successful in developing their own talent.

Heskey is the exception who proves the rule for Leicester, a vibrantly powerful, exceptionally versatile attacker, effective on either wing or, as at Selhurst, through the middle: a strong candidate for a role on one or other of England's flanks.

Overall, however, Martin O'Neill, Leicester's resourceful manager, and his predecessors have been commendably successful in the game of rehabilitation. Grayson, for example, was picked up from Leeds United six years ago, having played just two league games — and those in his very first season — in his four years at Elland Road.

Claridge, the 31-year-old striker, was another stone that the builder rejected — a rolling stone indeed, having played for seven clubs, Aldershot and Weymouth among them — before Leicester signed him from Birmingham City. O'Neill knows how to get the best out of such players and Leicester's success is a reproach to those clubs who merely "buy big".

Keller is only the latest in Leicester's distinguished succession of goalkeepers. Gordon Banks, signed from Chesterfield, a World Cup-winner, was possibly the best England have ever had, challenged only by his successor, Peter Shilton, a Leicester man himself, who played 125 times for England.

If Leicester have never won an FA Cup or championship, they have certainly come close in the former. People still talk about the Revie FA Cup Final of 1956, when Manchester City, under his midfield inspiration, beat Birmingham City, but there could have been a Revie Final in 1949. Don Revie, found by Leicester in minor football, had been their key figure when they demolished Portsmouth, then en route to the championship, in an FA Cup semi-final at Highbury. Alas, before the final, Revie suffered an appalling nasal haemorrhage and was unable to play against Wolverhampton Wanderers, who took the Cup, 3-1.

In 1961, the Leicester of Banks and the commanding Frank McLintock lost to a Tottenham Hotspur team which did the double, but Leicester played much of the game with just ten men. No substitutes, then, though Leicester were allowed to bring one on in 1969, when they narrowly lost the final to Manchester City.

The achievements of both Wimbledon and Leicester are greatly encouraging in these days of hyperbolic transfer fees and salaries. Chelsea, the very exemplar of such lavishness, could only scrape home in the FA Cup against Leicester. Middlesbrough, for all their huge outlay and their progress in two cups, struggle to stay in the Premiership.

Long ago, the comedian Davie Morris had a catchphrase: "Boro for the Cup!" All they have won in their 120-year history is the Amateur Cup, twice, last century. Unlike Leicester, they have never before been to a Wembley final. Money, as the man said, isn't everything.

CLIVE BRUNSKILL / ALLSPORT

Grayson celebrates his equaliser at Selhurst Park on Tuesday night, which took Leicester to Wembley

FA poised to lift drugs suspension on Notley

JAY NOTLEY, the Charlton Athletic midfield player, appears before the Football Association today in an attempt to resurrect his career (Russell Kempson writes). Notley, 18, was suspended in December after it was revealed that he had tested positive for a mixture of drugs — cocaine, cannabis and Ecstasy.

After an initial FA hearing he was given three months to receive counselling and undergo rehabilitation. It is expected that he will be given the go-ahead to resume playing today.

Since Notley's initial test, Adam Tanner, the Ipswich Town midfield player, has also been suspended after testing positive for cocaine. His ban expires next month.

Peter Schmeichel, the Denmark and Manchester United goalkeeper, is refusing to rush into a decision about whether he should try to heal his rift with Ian Wright, the Arsenal striker.

Schmeichel met with Maurice Watkins, the United solicitor, yesterday after the publication of a letter from Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive, that urged the players to make up. "I have discussed the letter with Peter and we are considering his response," Watkins said.

Kelly decided to act following the Crown Prosecution Services's decision that Schmeichel should not face charges over a complaint that he used racist language against Wright in the game at Old Trafford in November.

Reports in Italy yesterday suggested that Luigi Simoni, the Napoli coach, has agreed to take over Internazionale when Roy Hodgson leaves for Blackburn Rovers at the end of the season.

Forest continue spending spree

By Richard Hobson

NOTTINGHAM Forest completed the £1 million signing of Ian Moore from Tranmere Rovers last night, a move that is likely to mean Nigel Clough returning to Manchester City when his three-month loan spell at the City Ground expires next Thursday.

Moore's signing follows closely on that of Pierre van Hooijdonk, from Celtic. "I hope we will be able to get another player in before the transfer deadline, but having signed two strikers the priority now has to be a defender or midfield player," Dave Bassett, the general manager, said.

Frank Clark, the City manager, acknowledged that Clough might well be returning to Maine Road after seeing his side lose 2-0 to Birmingham City in a Nationwide League first division match on Tuesday. "He is a very experienced player with a wealth of ability and if he comes back that is certainly no problem," Clark said. "I have managed two clubs where he has been on the staff and he is yet to play a game for me, so it might be quite interesting."

Yesterday, Bassett reiterated that despite the amount of money provided by the club's new owners — £12 million is still available for the battle against relegation — he will not pay above his valuation of a player. City are believed to want close to £1 million for Clough, 30, who left Forest within weeks of Clark's appointment as manager in the summer of 1993. "I do not think we will be able to agree terms," Bassett admitted.

Moore, 20, rejected an offer from Everton to join Forest and is likely to be a substitute on Saturday when his new club entertain Liverpool. "We must not expect him to turn the world upside down immediately because he is a player for the future, but clearly we would not have bought him if we did not think he could figure to some degree this season," Bassett said.

A bleak day for Tranmere's prospects of reaching the first division promotion play-offs also saw Ged Brannan, who can play in midfield or defence, complete his £750,000 transfer to City after extensive negotiations with Clark over personal terms.

Brannan, 25, would have been out of contract during the summer and, with clubs in France showing an interest in him, Tranmere wanted to avoid losing a player for no fee under the Bosman ruling.

☐ David Webb, the Brentford manager, has confirmed his intention to leave the second division leaders. Webb handed in a letter of resignation after the defeat at Preston last Saturday, even though Brentford still hold a four-point lead. A club statement yesterday said Webb still "intends to do the best he can to get Brentford promoted".

IN BRIEF

Scotland suffer surprise defeat

WALES threw the home international series' bowls tournament into turmoil at Ballymoney yesterday when they defeated Scotland, the British team champions, 120-112 in the opening match, severely denting Scottish hopes of winning the title — and the Hilton Trophy — for a record seventh time in succession.

John Price, of Swansea, defeated Richard Corsie, 21-15, while Jason Greenslade, of Cardiff, edged home 21-19 against Graham Robertson. The greatest surprise was caused when Robert Provan's rink slumped to a 38-10 defeat at the hands of a Welsh rink skipped by Robert Weale. It is believed to be the biggest reverse suffered by a Scottish rink in the series' history. Wales have not won the event since 1981.

Wiberg victory

Skiing: Pernilla Wiberg, of Sweden, already confirmed as the World Cup overall champion, won the first World Cup downhill race of her eight-year career in Vail, Colorado, yesterday. Wiberg beat Renate Götschl, of Austria, and Katja Seizinger, of Germany, by 0.03sec in a time of 1min 43.28sec on the 2.7 kilometre course. By finishing equal second, Götschl won the World Cup downhill championship.

Lewis delay

Boxing: The purse bid deadline for Lennox Lewis's World Boxing Council heavyweight championship defence against Henry Akinwande, the former unbeaten World Boxing Organisation champion, has been changed for a third time. Offers for the all-British fight will now be opened on April 1 in Mexico. The contest is likely to go ahead in Mexico City or Las Vegas on June 21.

Agassi upset

Tennis: Mark Philippoussis, of Australia, inflicted a surprise 7-6, 7-6 defeat on Andre Agassi, the No 10 seed, in the first round of the Champions' Cup tournament in Indian Wells, California. Philippoussis, the man with the biggest service in the game, delivered 23 aces, one of which was clocked at 139mph, in beating the American.

Gatting reward

Cricket: Mike Gatting, the Middlesex and former England captain, has raised £190,000 from his testimonial last year. This sum is dependent on an outstanding £30,000 being collected by his committee. It is £30,000 less than the benefit Gatting received in 1988, the year he lost the England captaincy and gained considerable public sympathy.

FOOTBALL RESULTS

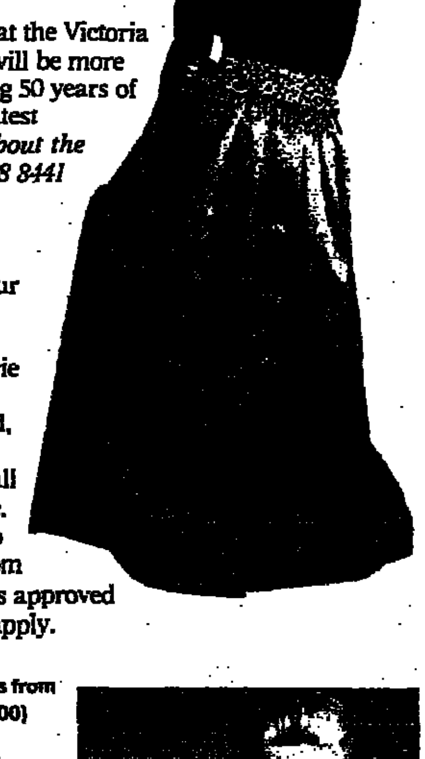
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Charlton Athletic 2 Southampton 0; Swindon Town 0 Norwich City 1.
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Goodyear Under-18 Trophy: Ousdale 1 William Parkhurst 2. Other match: Reigate 0 King's, Canterbury 5.
EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying group three: France 1 Switzerland 0 (in Pau).
LIBERTADORES CUP: Group five: Deportivo Cali (Col) 2 Penarol (Uru) 0

Tuesday's late results

COCA-COLA CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Wimbledon 1 Leicester City 1 (aet; 1-1 on agg; Leicester win on away goal).
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Blackburn Rovers 1 Nottingham Forest 1.
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Birmingham City 2 Manchester City 0. Second division: Bournemouth 3 Chesterfield 0. Postponed: Gillingham v Walsall. Third division: Chester City 0 Torquay United 0; Wigan Athletic 7 Scarborough 1.
AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Southern section: Final, first leg: Peterborough United 2 Colchester United 0
VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Bromsgrove Rovers 0 Kidderminster Harriers 1; Dover Athletic 1 Stevenage Borough 1 (abandoned at half-time); Hayes 0 Farnborough Town 0; Kettering 3 Altrincham 1; Woking 2 Welling United 1.
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Kilmarnock 2 Celtic 0. First division: Falkirk 1 St Mirren 1. Second division: Clyde 2 Queen of the South 1. Third division: Alloa Athletic 0 Inverness Caledonian Thistle 2; Montrose 0 Ross County 0.
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Chorley 1 Bamber Bridge 3; Guiseley 0 Bishop Auckland 0; Lancaster 2 Witton Albion 1; Marine 3 Winsford Utd 0. First division: Leigh 2 Eastwood Tn 0; Warrington Tn 3 Gretna 1.
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone 0 Cheltenham 0; Hastings 0 Worcester City 0. Midland division: Shepshed Dynamo 1 Grantham Tn 0; Sutton Coldfield Tn 0 Paget Rangers 0. Southern division: Fleet Tn 0 Newport IoW 4; Tonbridge Angels 0 Margate 0; Waterlooville 1 Trowbridge Tn 4. Cup: Semi-finals, second leg: Burton Albion 4 RC Warwick 1 (Burton win 8-2 on agg); Weymouth 0 Sudbury Tn 3 (Sudbury win 4-0 on agg).
ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Dulwich 0 Enfield 1; Hendon 1 Yeovil 3; Yeading 3 Bishop's Stortford 0. First division: Billericay Tn 2 Croydon 0; Chesham United 4 Tooting and Mitcham 0; Leyton Pennant 5 Marlow 0; Walton and Hersham 2 Canvey Island 0; Whyteleafe 3 Berkhamsted 3. Second division: Cheshunt 0 Collier Row and Romford 1; Dorking 0 Egham 2; Edgware 1 Windsor and Eton 1, Horsham 1 Metropolitan Police 1, Hungerford 1 Wembley 1; Leatherhead 4 Bracknell 1; Tilbury 0 Banstead 0. Third division: Clapton 2 Lewes 0; Northwood 0 East Thurrock 0. Guardian Insurance Cup: Semi-finals, second leg: Sutton Utd 1 Braintree 2 (Braintree win 3-1 on agg); Boreham Wood 3 Kingstonian 2 (aet; Boreham Wood win 4-3 on agg).
PONTIN'S CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Coventry 2 Port Vale 2. Second division: Rotherham 3 York 1.
GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Barry 8 Aberystwyth 1; Holywell 3 Connah's Quay 4. Cup: Semi-final, first leg: Bangor 1 Llansantffraid 1.
SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Paulton Rovers 0 Odd Down 0.
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton Coll 2 Blackpool R 4; Bootle 0 Newcastle Tn 3; Burscough 1 Salford City 0; Glossop North End 1 Trafford 2; Holker OB 4 Chadderton 4; Maine Road 2 Kidsgrove Ath 3.
FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Tow Law Town 1 Bedlington Terriers 3.
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Corinthian 2 Slade Green 3; Faversham 3 Cray W 2; Hythe 3 Greenwich Bor 0; Tunbridge Wells 3 Lordswood 3.
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Bemerton Heath 1 Wimborne 0; Thatcham 2 Whitchurch 3.
ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Saffron Walden 4 Sawbridgeworth 0.
MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Royston Town 4 Bedford United 1; Welwyn Garden City 2 Buckingham 0 (abandoned after 45min).
SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Cup: Semi-final: Norwich 2 Watford 0.
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Maltby MW 1 Thackley 2; North Ferriby Utd 3 Ossett Tn 0.
UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Stamford 3 Spalding 2; Wootton 2 Long Buckby 2.
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Fakenham 2 March Town Utd 0; Hadleigh 1 Woodbridge 3; Newmarket 1 Wisbech 1; Stowmarket 0 Harwich and Parkeston 3; Watton 1 Soham 2 (abandoned after 81min); Wroxham 3 Halstead 1.
INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Blakenall 1 Bridgnorth 2; Chasetown 0 Boldmere St Michaels 0; Hinckley Ath 4 Pershore 2; Pelsall Villa 1 Rushall Olympic 1; Rocester 4 Willenhall 3; Sandwell Bor 1 Bloxwich 1; Shifnal 0 Knypersley Victoria 0.
FA YOUTH CUP: Fifth-round replay: Tranmere 0 Leeds 1.
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Under-16 international: England 2 Wales 0 (at Rushden & Diamonds). Boodle & Dunthorne Cup: Final: Bolton 1 Lancing 2. FA Premier League Under-16 Trophy: Quarter-final: Devon 0 Bedfordshire 0.
GERMAN LEAGUE: SC Karlsruhe 2 VfL Bochum 3; Werder Bremen 2 St Pauli 1; SV Hamburg 2 Borussia Mönchengladbach 1; Schalke 04 4 MSV Duisburg 0; Cologne 1 VfB Stuttgart 5.
DUTCH CUP: Quarter-final: PEC Zwolle 0 Roda JC Kerkrade 5.
BELGIAN CUP: Quarter-final: Germinal Ekeren 3 Standard Liège 0.

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION — THE TIMES

£20,000 of fashion outfits to be won with the V&A

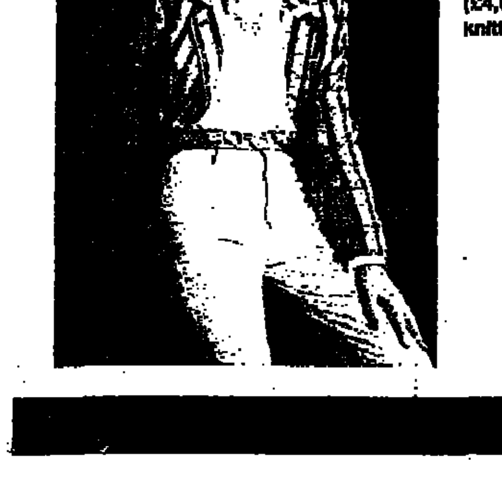


The Times, in association with the Victoria and Albert Museum's *Cutting Edge* exhibition, offers you the chance to win a selection of high fashion and accessories from our top British designers. We have over 30 creations worth a total of £20,000 to give away as prizes. All you have to do is tell us who is sponsoring the exhibition, and choose your prize from those modelled here and the outfits and accessories appearing every day this week.

The *Cutting Edge* exhibition is now on at the Victoria and Albert Museum until July 27. There will be more than 250 outfits and accessories illustrating 50 years of fashion from 1940s Utility clothes to the latest catwalk designs. *For more information about the exhibition and opening times call 0171-938 8441 or 0171-938 8349.*

HOW TO ENTER

Write your answer on a postcard, with your first, second and third choice of prize with your size and send it to: *The Times* V&A Women's Fashion Competition, 30 Bouverie St, London EC88 4NG. Or deliver it in person to the V&A Museum, Cromwell Rd, London SW7 2RL to arrive no later than March 27. Winners will be selected from all correct entries received by the closing date. Please state clearly on your entry if you do not wish to receive further information from Times Newspapers, the V&A or companies approved by them. Normal TNL competition rules apply.



Left above: Cream silk wedding dress from a choice of three by Gina Fratini (£1,000) centre: Beige and brown trim hat by Frederick Fox (£200) below: Check blazer and coordinating trousers or skirt from Daks (£380) Right above: Franka Couture black velvet bodice, fuschia satin skirt (£4,000) below: Edina Ronay white hand-knitted jumper (£230)

V&A
The Cutting Edge
Fifty Years of British Fashion
1947-1997
Sponsored by
Mulberry
ENGLAND

CHANGING TIMES

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

BROWN nee THOMAS, BESSIE BROWN nee THOMAS WIDOW late of Cambridge died there on 6 January 1997 (Estate about £50,000)

CAPPELLO, GEORGE EDMUND CAPPELLO late of Scunthorpe, Humberside died there on 24 June 1975 (Estate about £8,000)

CUMMING, RUBY BERYL IRENE CUMMING otherwise RUBY CUMMING SPINSTER late of Stotfold, Hertfordshire died at Stevenage, Hertfordshire on 8 December 1995 (Estate about £8,900)

DIXON, ARTHUR DIXON late of Croydon, Surrey died there on 17 May 1996 (Estate about £7,500)

DUFF nee WITHERINGTON, FREDA EVELYN DUFF otherwise FREDA DUFF nee WITHERINGTON WIDOW late of Coventry, West Midlands died there on 8 November 1996 (Estate about £70,000)

DUFF, RAYMOND DUFF late of Nottingham, Nottinghamshire died there on 14 March 1991 (Estate about £5,500)

GOMES nee COOKE, JEANETTE ELIZABETH GOMES otherwise JEANETTE GOMES nee COOKE SINGLE WOMAN late of Epsom, Surrey died there on 10 May 1994 (Estate about £8,200)

JESSOP, MARY ELIZABETH JESSOP SPINSTER late of Redhill, Surrey died there on 7 December 1995 (Estate about £7,000)

KAVANAGH, MARGARET TERESA KAVANAGH SPINSTER late of Birmingham died at Dudley, West Midlands on 5 April 1995 (Estate about £93,000)

KOLASINSKA nee PAWLOWSKA, ZOFIA BARBARA KOLASINSKA nee PAWLOWSKA WIDOW late of Ealing, London W5 died there on 8 September 1995 (Estate about £110,000)

KULIGOWSKA nee BURZYNSKA, SABINA KULIGOWSKA nee BURZYNSKA late of Wimbledon, London SW19 died at Roehampton, London SW15 on 16 March 1996 (Estate about £14,000)

LAMB, STANLEY PERCIVAL LAMB late of Birmingham died there on or about 14 October 1993 (Estate about £56,000)

MARKS, GEORGE MARKS late of Croydon, Surrey died there on 4 December 1996 (Estate about £36,000)

MILLER, GLADYS PERCIVAL MILLER SPINSTER late of Worthing, West Sussex died there on 29 September 1995 (Estate about £10,000)

MOLLOY, JOHN MOLLOY late of Caterham, Surrey died there on 10 November 1995 (Estate about £7,000)

MORRISSEY, PETER PATRICK MORRISSEY otherwise PETER MORRISSEY late of Camden, London NW1 died there on 21 February 1996 (Estate about £6,000)

POTTS, CECIL POTTS late of Fulwell, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear died there on or about 2 April 1996 (Estate about £40,000)

TROTMAN, ROBERT JOSEPH TROTMAN late of Shepperton, Middlesex died there on 1 July 1996 (Estate about £90,000)

TURNER, ROBERT TURNER late of Birmingham, West Midlands died there on 18 May 1996 (Estate about £15,000)

VALLANCE nee THORNLEY, NORAH VALLANCE nee THORNLEY WIDOW late of Nottingham died there on 29 November 1996 (Estate about £16,000)

VINCE, JOHN FREDERICK VINCE late of Bayswater, London W2 died there on 19 November 1996 (Estate about £40,000)

WINTERS, CHRISTOPHER WINTERS late of East Sheen, London SW14 died at Wandsworth, London SW18 on 2 October 1995 (Estate about £8,200)

YOUNG, FREDERICK YOUNG late of Northfleet, Kent died there on 5 January 1994 (Estate about £14,000)

The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (BV), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

COLE, GEORGE EDWARD COLE late of Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire died there on 22 May 1994 (Estate about £9,000)

GOLDING, Samuel Golding late of Bristol, Avon died there on 19 October 1993 (Estate about £2,400)

GRAINGER, ELSIE GRAINGER SPINSTER late of Wallasey, Merseyside died at Birkenhead, Merseyside on 22 December 1996 (Estate about £44,000)

GREVES nee GREVES, FLORENCE ALICE GREVES nee GREVES WIDOW late of [illegible], West Midlands died there on 28 September 1996 (Estate about £90,000)

HEWITT, ALLAN HEWITT late of Kirkburton, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire died there on 30 December 1995 (Estate about £2,600)

HORAN, DESMOND JOHN HORAN otherwise DESMOND HORAN late of Upper Edmonton, London N18 died there on 7 September 1995 (Estate about £55,000)

HOWSON, DOROTHY MARY HOWSON SPINSTER late of Hove, East Sussex died there on 4 July 1996 (Estate about £18,000)

HUNT, KATHERINE ROSEMARY HUNT SPINSTER late of Brompton, London SW10 died there on 6 October 1980 (Estate about £7,000)

MAY nee CATHERY, ROSA DOROTHY MAY nee CATHERY WIDOW late of Caernarvon, Gwynedd died there on 29 March 1996 (Estate about £20,000)

MELICKA nee RUTHOWSKA, HENRYKA MELICKA nee RUTHOWSKA WIDOW late of Ealing, London W5 died at Hammersmith, London W12 on 18 April 1996 (Estate about £120,000)

NEW, PETER EDWARD NEW otherwise PETER NEW late of Birmingham, West Midlands died at Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands on 20 July 1996 (Estate about £30,000)

NICHOLLS, DOUGLAS HENRY ALEXANDER NICHOLLS late of Luton, Bedfordshire died there on 9 January 1996 (Estate about £30,000)

POWELL, ROSE GEORGINA POWELL SPINSTER late of Poole, Dorset died there on 9 October 1996 (Estate about £6,000)

SPENCER, LESLIE JAMES SPENCER late of Harrow, Middlesex died there on 10 March 1996 (Estate about £90,000)

The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (BV), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Sixty-Seventh ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the GOVERNORS of King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers (Sister Agnes Founder) will be held in Agnes Keyser House, Beaumont Street, London W1N 2AD at 11.00am on Thursday 1 May 1997 - by Order Brigadier C J M Harrison OBE, Chief Executive.

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: Elenor Mary Frances Reeve, deceased
Scheme
Reference: PC-3060461/44860-CD(Ldn)

The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at Vaughan & Davies, Solicitors, 32 Duke Street, Kington, Herefordshire, HR5 3BW (ref: CMT/JDW/Reeve) or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St. Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX quoting the reference above.

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: The National Sea Training Trust
Scheme including alteration of the objects of the Charity
Reference: CS-16403-CD(Ldn)

The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at Carthusian Court 12 Carthusian Street London EC1M 6EB or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX quoting the above reference. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-680 6878
OR
FAX: 0171-481 9313
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF S98 MEETING OF CREDITORS
ROCKFORT LIMITED
Former Trading Address: 110/113 Tottenham Court Road, London W1
Company Number: 1122341

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at Hill House, 1 Little New Street, London EC4A 3TR on 3 April 1997 at 10.30am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

James Robert Drummond Smith of Deloitte & Touche, of PO Box 810, Hill House, 1 Little New Street, London EC4A 3TR will provide creditors free of charge with such information concerning the company's affairs as they may reasonably require. Creditors requiring this information should contact in the first instance Andrew Tate on 0171-303-4209.

Dated: 7 March 1997
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
Rose-Marie Sexton, Director

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CHELMSFORD COUNTY COURT NO. 240 of 1994 LYDIA SUSAN OLIVER Also known as Lydia Susan Lawrence, a prison officer of 18 Parklands Drive, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 5RJ and lately residing at 24 Timsons Lane, Chelmsford, Essex and formerly residing at 72 Netherley Road, Coppull, Chorley, Lancashire.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors of the above named person are required to lodge proof of their debt with me at 115 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0QT on or before the 7th day of April 1997. It is my intention to declare a first and final dividend in the matter within the period of four months from the last date for proving and any creditor who has not lodged a claim by the above date will be excluded from such dividend.

Dated the 10th day of March 1997
A S ALLEYNE, TRUSTEE IN BANKRUPTCY

MAINTRIM LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held at the offices of Poppleton & Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester M4 1QD on Monday 17th March 1997 at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Pursuant to Section 98 subsection (2)(a) of the Act, Mr Peter Lomas of Poppleton & Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester M4 1QD is appointed to act as the Qualified Insolvency Practitioner who will furnish creditors with such information as they may reasonably require.

DATED THIS 7TH DAY OF MARCH 1997
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
B J DAWSON, DIRECTOR

Criminal Court (Mr Recorder Milford, QC) on conviction of causing

injuries.
The appellant was convicted of

Artillery Row.

Treasury Solicitor.

[illegible]

CRICKET

Vote for Graveney marks change in selection process

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

THE appointment of David Graveney as chairman of selectors, which seems certain to be confirmed at a meeting of the England management committee today, could lead to fundamental changes in the way the national team is chosen.

Graveney, 44, who only retired from playing two seasons ago, will become the youngest chairman in many years and it is likely that his panel of selectors this summer will reflect the shift of generations. Graham Gooch could be joined by a second selector still playing the game if the fashion for men whose age inevitably alienates them from the modern game is finally abandoned.

Although the profile of the chairman is being deliberately lowered by the presence and power of the management committee, which will take charge of discipline, his accountability for selection could, paradoxically, increase. It has already been decided that the coach will no longer be a selector and the removal of the captain from the panel may follow.

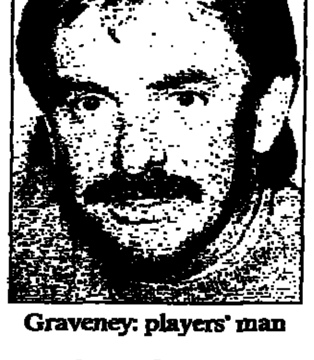
Michael Atherton has long been ambivalent about his selection role but is inclined to support the Australian method, whereby the captain is routinely consulted before teams are named but is not seen to possess a vote.

If the captain was relieved of this duty, two additional selectors would be required but it appears unlikely that they will be named today. A county coach, involved full-time in the game and able to see players at close quarters, could be at least equally as useful as an active player.

Mike Gatting, who coached the England A team under Graveney's management this winter, is sure to come into contention, if the role appeals to him. A panel including Graveney, Gooch and Gatting would invite an adverse reaction, however, for all remain tainted in some eyes by their involvements in the unsanctioned tours to South Africa.

Graveney is well prepared for a backlash on this issue but intends to fight his corner against at least one false assumption. It was widely believed that he recruited players for the ill-fated 1990 trip, led by Gatting, but he denies it.

"I was made manager after all the players had been recruited. Until then, I was just another player who had signed up, something for which I cannot express regret as I did it for the security of my family," he said.



Graveney: players' man

Neither this explanation, nor the fractured relationships that Graveney has already endured, will entirely appease a lobby agitated by the gradual accession to authority of many men involved on those tours. Nor will it spare Graveney from further scepticism over the fact that he was never considered good enough to play official Test cricket.

In itself, however, this is no drawback to being a successful chairman. Laurie Sawle presided over the Australia selectors through years of high achievement, yet he had never played a Test. The substance of the man is what matters and Graveney, a natural communicator, commands respect at all levels of the game.

His day job, as general secretary of the Cricketers' Association, the players' union, is by definition a mark of the esteem in which modern cricketers hold him, and the fact that he has been able to conduct delicate negotiations with some success reflects his standing among the establishment.

The son of Ken Graveney, whom he emulated by captaining Gloucestershire, and the nephew of Tom, David is a qualified accountant but recent years have seen him almost fully involved in cricket. He would probably have won a ballot for the chairmanship against Raymond Illingworth last spring, but for being forced to withdraw when his Association identified a conflict of interest. After two years as a selector he was always the favourite to take the vacant chair once the conflict was resolved, with disciplinary matters being handled elsewhere.

He has had little opposition, although Mark Nicholas, the former captain of Hampshire now working in the media, was also nominated. Graveney, who was formally interviewed for the post last week, will bring to it the accessibility and honesty that have gained him such wide support.

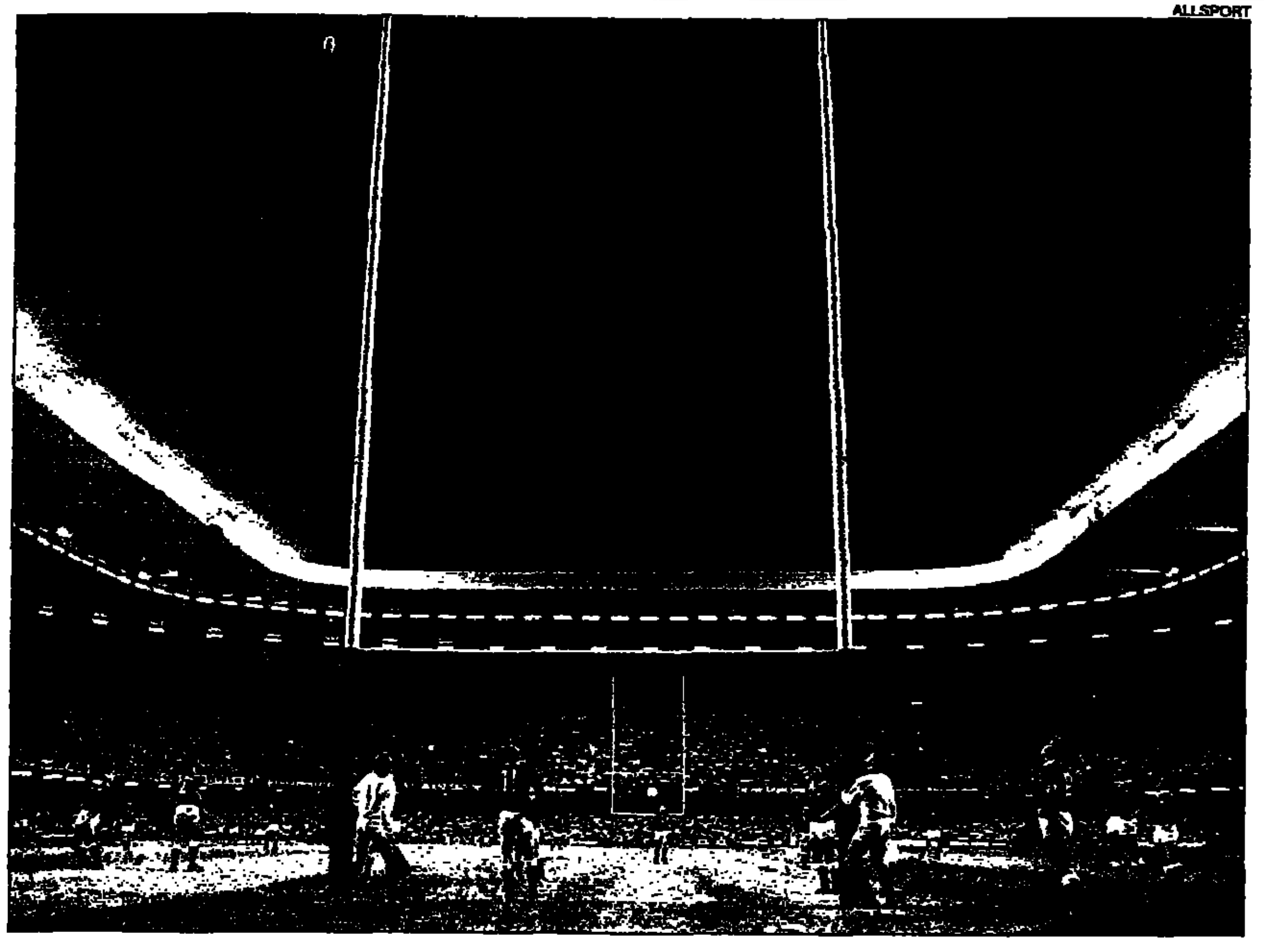
Stewart stands down

ALEC STEWART has stepped down as captain of Surrey in order to concentrate on his England commitments. He is succeeded by Adam Hollioake, the vice-captain, who enjoyed considerable success as captain of the England A team on tour in Australia this winter.

Surrey have made Stewart honorary club captain, in recognition of his past service. "I believe that this is in the best interests of both the club and myself, so that I can return the best results with bat and gloves. I wish Adam all the luck in the world as the new captain," Stewart said.

Stuart Foster has resigned as vice-chairman of Nottinghamshire, in protest at the level of the contribution made by some of his colleagues.

Gloucestershire have signed Shaun Young, the Tasmania all-rounder, as their overseas player for the coming season.



ALLSPORT

The Arms Park, which evokes so many vivid memories of Welsh exploits, will soon submit to the bulldozers

Fond farewell to the Arms Park

Gerald Davies laments the passing of a field of dreams so close to Welsh hearts

The heavy machinery is about to move in. The bulldozers will soon inflict their first damage. Cardiff Arms Park is coming down. On Saturday Wales will confront England in what will be the final international rugby match to be played on the ground that is presently structured, with its one open end, like an overturned egg-cup. This incompleteness is to be corrected. A superdome is envisaged to welcome the World Cup to Wales in 1999 and so herald the dawn of the 21st century. Tilted through 90 degrees, the direction of play will no longer be from east to west, as now, but north to south. This has nearly caused tears to be shed. There is a strong sentimental attachment to the place.

If, over the 113 years that international rugby has been played at the ground, named after a local coaching inn, dramatic changes have taken place, the pitch itself, apart from some minor modifications, has remained changeless — so that the geographical locations of the game's high points remain. We could take our pilgrimage secure in the knowledge that east was east and west was west and that, immutably, the great moments happened where they were said to have happened. Men could express their death-bed wishes, as some have done, and have their ashes scattered where their heroes had been.

It was at the Westgate end that Bob Deans, of New Zealand, was denied a try in 1905, which gave Wales their famous 3-0 victory and hatched a controversy that reverberates still. It was Clem Thomas' cross kick at the other end of the ground which gave Ken Jones, the Commonwealth Games sprinter, his try to bring down the 1953 All Blacks. In between there was the late Wilf Wooller's long-striding, high-stepping break that led to Rees-Jones' try that sank the 1935 tour side. These are constant.

Keith Jarrett, the schoolboy who scored a record 19 points on his international debut at full back in 1967, sprinted to score in the northeast corner. In 1959, Dewi Bebb scored on the same spot on his debut. Alun Pask would end up in the same place after a long diagonal run as he one-handedly dummied and mesmerised the Fijians on their first tour of Wales, in 1964.

Ieuan Evans, the right wing, has made such a habit of scoring brilliant tries in that area between the posts and the southeast corner that he could call the patch his own.

Feeling that the Arms Park, would ensure a large crowd in the way the other national grounds could not in those days, the Barbarians were invited to play a tour team — the Australians — in 1948. So it arose that the Arms Park would witness rugby's most cherished and enduring image.

Along that touchline and at the southwestern end, Gareth Edwards scored the try that will be seen in years to come and so inspire future generations as long as rugby is played. As indeed it might have done with the Australian, David Campese. For the same club, in 1990, he displayed his incomparable gifts when he scored under the posts against Wales at the Westgate end.

On the halfway line under the North Stand in 1961, Haydn Mainwaring shoulder-charged the rampaging South Africa captain, Avril Malan, to secure a famous victory against, until then, the unbeaten touring team. J. P. R. Williams, in similar fashion, nudged the Frenchman, Gourdon, into touch in 1976 in the northwest corner.

Henceforward these locations will only be revisited on film. "In the future," pondered Clive Rowlands, the former Wales scrum half and captain, "where will we be able to point out where Gareth [Edwards] scored a try against Scotland? In the men's cloakroom under the East Stand, I presume?"

He was referring to the great scrum half's heroic surge of 60 metres to score a try in 1972. He returned rust-brown dirty after sliding into the greyhound track around the perimeter at the time. It confirmed Edwards as an icon of that rugby age.

Cardiff Arms Park has always been a homely place. A warm affinity exists between crowd and players. It is companionable and close and not at all distant in the way some national grounds are. The new Cardiff Arms Park must surely attempt to preserve its essential intimate quality.

GOLF

Ballesteros reluctant to back aching hypothesis

From Mel Webb in Lisbon

WHERE the pupil has gone to be made whole, the master has followed — allegedly. Severiano Ballesteros was being coy yesterday when asked if he had consulted the same German specialist who had wrought miracles with the lame José María Olazábal. First he denied it, then he denied it some more, and finally, with the merest inclination of his head, he allowed that he might have done.

Ballesteros's problem — a chronic back injury — has an even longer history than Olazábal's troublesome foot. It has been bothering him since he was twentysomething, but, as the years have crept on, the condition has become a permanent, painful part of his life.

There were suggestions that, after the Dubai Desert Classic, two weeks ago, Ballesteros had gone to the Munich consulting rooms of Hans-Wilhelm Müller-Wohlfahrt. Aside from the fact that he would have had time to get better while the good doctor was still introducing himself, Ballesteros is said to have spent three days with Müller-Wohlfahrt.

The outcome is not known, but whatever was prescribed — a programme of exercises is thought to be on the agenda — it will not have to bring about much of an improvement to trigger a better performance by Ballesteros in the Portuguese Open, that starts at Aroeira today, than he produced in Dubai, where he had rounds of 74 and 84 and missed the cut by 13 shots.

Ballesteros had eight birdies in a 68 in the pro-am yesterday and was then curiously unwilling to admit that he had even been to Munich. "This is very private and I don't really need to talk about it," he said. When pressed, he did yield a small nod, however — enough to constitute an admission.

In any case, the cat had already been let out of the bag by Olazábal. "Seve phoned me to ask how I felt about the doctor, and I told him my situation and gave him the facts," Olazábal said. "I think he went for three days."

So why all the mystery? Even ordinary mortals get backaches.

SNOOKER

O'Sullivan hits back

RONNIE O'SULLIVAN avenged his defeat by Steve Davis in the final of the Benson and Hedges Masters last month when he overcame the former world champion 5-2 to reach the quarter-finals of the Thailand Open here in Bangkok yesterday (Phil Yates writes).

O'Sullivan produced arguably his most accomplished performance of the season so far to earn a meeting with Stephen Lee. It was the type of intense, focused display that made a mockery of O'Sullivan's post-match threat to retire after a 5-1 first-round reversal against Chris Small in the European Open two weeks ago.

"When I say I'm going to pack it in, it's only because I'm annoyed with myself," O'Sullivan said. "You've got to take me with a pinch of salt. It probably won't be the last time I come out with something stupid like that."

Stephen Hendry, favourite for the £40,000 first prize, also progressed, with a 5-2 win over Jimmy White, but his display paled against that of O'Sullivan. Hendry now meets Fergal O'Brien, who beat Ken Doherty 5-4.

TENNIS

Juniors get cash boost

ROVER Cars and the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) are doubling their investment in junior tennis with the announcement of a £2 million sponsorship over the next two years (Alix Ramsay writes). Rover and the LTA will each provide £500,000 per year for the training of young players and the search for new talent.

The biggest change to the established Rover Junior Initiative is the creation of a new junior club league to provide competition for players of every standard aged 15 years and under.

Already, 800 clubs from 43 counties have signed up for the event, which will involve nearly 4,000 players. Starting in April, the competition will move through county and regional finals towards the national finals, to be held in Nottingham in October.

The increased funding will also cover the cost of a series of overseas training camps, similar to the visit of 20 young hopefuls to Florida next week. It will also continue and expand the LTA's search for new players and the elite training provided for those already included in the Rover scheme.

FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

BIRMINGHAM: Yonex All-England championships: Men's singles: First round: P Chan (Malaysia) bt J Laugesen (Den) 15-11, 15-12; T Sogaard (Den) bt Y Kubota (Japan) 15-5, 8-15, 15-10; M L Hansen (Den) bt R Nock (Eng) 15-5, 15-13; J Suprianto (Indo) bt Ji Xinpeng (China) 15-4, 15-10; P Rasmussen (Den) bt D Bhattacharjee (Indo) 15-5, 15-8; C Haughton (Eng) bt M Beres (Can) 15-1, 15-5; Ong Ewe Hock (Malaysia) bt F Machida (Japan) 15-4, 15-1; Yong Hock Kin (Malaysia) bt D Palyama (Holl) 15-6, 15-5; Lin Liwen (China) bt P G Christensen (Den) 15-9, 6-15, 18-13; I Wijaya (Indo) bt G Lewis (Wales) 15-12, 15-4; A Boesen (Den) bt Yang Zhuo (China) 15-12, 15-8; V Druzhchenko (Ukr) bt C Bruil (Holl) 12-15, 15-9, 17-15; I Sydie (Can) bt A Jensen (Den) 15-6, 15-3; R Sidek (Indo) bt S Nielsen (Den) 15-4, 15-10; P-E Hoyer-Larsen (Den) bt G Bruystens (Holl) 15-8, 15-2; Dong Jiong (China) bt A Wiranata (Indo) 15-9, 18-15; J Olsson (Swe) bt S Ohta (Japan) 15-7, 15-4; P Knowles (Eng) bt P Janum (Den) 5-15, 15-6, 15-5. **Women's singles: First round:** D Yun (China) bt E Ong (Can) 11-1, 11-0; Choi Ma-rae (S Kor) bt P Harder (Den) 11-3, 11-4; P Plungwech (Thai) bt S Dabbour (Fr) 11-1, 11-5; J Muggeridge (Eng) bt M Nakayama (Japan) 11-8, 11-6; K Yonekura (Japan) bt J Meulendijks (Holl) 11-7, 11-6; Yao Yan (China) bt D Julian (Can) 11-1, 11-6; K Morgan (Wal) bt J Mann (Eng) 11-6, 11-3; P Jin-hyun (S Kor) bt A Gibson (Scot) 11-1, 11-9; J Hua-Ching (Taiwan) bt C Reid (Can) 12-10, 11-12, 11-3; T Ida (Japan) bt E Kareckova (Russ) 11-5, 11-5; M Sorensen (Den) bt G Martin (Scot) 11-6, 11-1; Ra Kyung-min (S Kor) bt B Beenhakker (Holl) 11-8, 11-1; M Andrievskaya (Swe) bt L Thomsen (Den) 11-4, 11-2; M Rasmussen (Den) bt K Krasowska (Pol) 12-10, 4-11, 11-8; Han Jingna (China) bt Y Sentoso (Indo) 11-4, 11-0.

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BASKETBALL

EUROLEAGUE: Elimination round: Second legs: Seville 75 Teamsystem Bologna 79 (Bologna win 152-145 on agg). Limoges (Fr) 55 Panathinaikos (Gr) 70 (Panathinaikos win 138-122 on agg); Barcelona (Sp) 72 Alba Berlin (Ger) 62 (Barcelona win 167-139 on agg). **First legs:** Maccabi Tel Aviv 78 Efes Pilsen (Tur) 65; Ljubljana (Slovenia) 69 Cibona Zagreb (Cro) 66; Estudiantes (Sp) 79 Villeurbanne (Fr) 77; Olympiakos (Gr) 60 Partizan Belgrade (Yug) 61; Kinder Bologna (It) 83 Stefanel Milan (It) 76. **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA):** Chicago 117 Boston 106; Atlanta 106 Utah 99; Charlotte 98 Vancouver 92; Minnesota 104 Philadelphia 100; Houston 103 San Antonio 79; Dallas 91 New York 83; Miami 108 Milwaukee 93; Orlando 96 Denver 91; Toronto 105 Phoenix 101; Portland 109 LA Clippers 105; Seattle 93 Detroit 80; Cleveland 88 Sacramento 85

BOWLS

BALLYMONEY: Home international indoor championships: Wales 120 Scotland 112 (Wales skips first: J Price bt R Corsie 21-15; M Anstey lost to R McCulloch 15-23; R Weale bt R Provan 38-10; N Leigh lost to W Wood 11-25; S Rees lost to J Muir 14-20; J Greenslade bt G Robertson 21-19).

CYCLING

PARIS-NICE RACE: Third stage (Bourges to Montlucon, 173km): 1, T Steels (Bel) 4hr 13min 59sec; 2, G M Fagnini (It); 3, F Moncassin (Fr); 4, V Ekimov (Russ); 5, J Kirsipuu (Est); 6, I Quaranta (It); 7, A Baffi (It); 8, J-J Henry (Fr); 9, F Baldato (It); 10, E Cassani (It); 11, M Sciandri (GB) all same time. **Overall positions:** 1, L Jalabert (Fr) 8hr 47min 02sec; 2, Steels at 3sec; 3, A Tchmil (Ukr) at 7; 4, M Mauri (Sp) at 11; 5, Baffi at 15; 6, C Moreau (Fr) at 16; 7, S Heulot (Fr) at 17; 8, Moncassin same time; 9, Ekimov at 19; 10, P Chanteur (Fr) same time; 30, Sciandri at 33.

ICE HOCKEY

SUPERLEAGUE PLAY-OFFS: Group A: Cardiff 6 Newcastle 4. **Group B:** Nottingham 4 Basingstoke 3.
PREMIER LEAGUE PLAY-OFF: Slough 4 Swindon 3.
NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Florida 3 NY Islanders 2; New Jersey 6 Edmonton 1; Washington 4 Vancouver 1; Buffalo 3 Philadelphia 2 (OT); St Louis 4 San Jose 3

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCHES: Lydney 10 Army 54; Northampton 60 RAF 17; Wasps 38 Royal Navy 12.

SAILING

BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE: Fourth leg (Sydney to Cape Town, positions as at 13:52 GMT yesterday, with miles to Cape Town): 1, Global Teamwork 4,526; 2, Toshiba Wave Warrior 4,535; 3, Save The Children 4,542; 4, Group 4 4,544; 5, Commercial Union 4,569; 6, Pause To Remember 4,571; 7, Concert 4,577; 8, Ocean Rover 4,604; 9, Motorola 4,605; 10, Time & Tide 4,618; 11, Courtaulds International 4,636; 12, 3Com 4,639; 13, Nuclear Electric 4,647; 14, Heath Insured II 4,681

SKIING

VAIL, Colorado: Women's World Cup downhill: 1, P Wiberg (Swe) 1min 43.28sec; 2 equal, R Goetschl (Austria) and K Seizinger (Ger) 1:43.31; 4, I Kostner (It) 1:43.61; 5, H Zurbriggen (Switz) 1:43.78; 6, H Gerg (Ger) 1:43.98; 7, K Gutensohn (Ger) 1:43.99; 8, A Meissnitzer (Austria) 1:44.00; 9, H Lindh (US) 1:44.15; 10, S Schuster (Austria) 1:44.28.

SNOOKER

BANGKOK: Thailand Open: Second round: S Hendry (Scot) bt J White (Eng) 5-2; F O'Brien (Ire) bt K Doherty (Ire) 5-4; Q Hann (Aus) bt M Williams (Wales) 5-1; S Lee (Eng) bt A Hamilton (Eng) 5-1

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop Auckland v Lancaster (7.30). **Cup: Fourth-round replay:** Guiseley v Colwyn Bay (7.30)
ICIS LEAGUE: Second division: Wivenhoe v Collier Row and Romford (7.30)
PONTIN'S CENTRAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Birmingham v Sheffield Wednesday (at Hednesford Town FC, 7.15)
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Halstead v Tiptree (7.30).

RUGBY UNION

SCHOOLS TOURNAMENT: Haberdashers' Schools Sevens (Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College ground, Nunhead, 2.0)

OTHER SPORT

BADMINTON: Yonex All-England Open Championships (NIA, Birmingham)
BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Leopards v Hemel and Watford (7.0), Sheffield v London Towers (7.45).
BOWLS: Men's home international championships (at Ballymoney).
ICE HOCKEY: Superleague play-offs: Group A: Manchester v Cardiff (7.30). Group B: Bracknell v Basingstoke (8.0).

SQUASH

SUPER LEAGUE. Ellis Lingfield 0 Dunraven Maesteg 3 (R Eyles lost to M Cairns 6-9, 7-9, 9-2, 10-8, 6-9; P Nicol lost to P Gregory 2-9, 7-9, 5-9; T Garner lost to C van der Wath 9-10, 7-9, 6-9). Rowlands Manchester 1 ICL LionHerts 2 (D Ryan lost to C Walker 6-9, 9-1, 9-10, 4-9; P Johnson bt D Harris 6-9, 7-9, 9-5, 9-6, 9-8; N Taylor lost to M Chaloner 10-9, 5-9, 4-9, 4-9). **League positions:** 1, Dunraven Maesteg 13pts; 2, ICL LionHerts 11; 3, Rowlands Manchester 10; 4, Ellis Lingfield 10; 5, Surbiton 10

TENNIS

COPENHAGEN. Men's tournament: First round. M Damm (Cz) bt P Lannqvist (Swe) 6-2, 6-3; T Carbonell (Sp) bt E Erlich (Isr) 6-2, 6-2. **Second round.** K Kucera (Slovakia) bt F Santoro (Fr) 6-1, 4-6, 6-1; T Johansson (Swe) bt A Volkov (Russ) 4-6, 6-3, 6-2
INDIAN WELLS, California. Men's tournament: First round. B Black (Zim) bt A Costa (Sp) 6-2, 6-2; M Rosset (Switz) bt M Zabaleta (Arg) 6-3, 7-5; J Bjorkman (Swe) bt A Gaudenzi (It) 6-1, 6-3; M Philippoussis (Aus) bt A Agassi (US) 7-6, 7-6; B Ulihrach (Cz) bt H Gumy (Arg) 4-6, 6-1, 6-0; J Novak (Cz) bt M Goellner (Ger) 5-7, 6-4, 6-2; C Woodruff (US) bt J Gimelstob (US) 6-4, 6-7, 6-3; J Sánchez (Sp) bt R Reneberg (US) 6-4, 5-7, 6-4; S Dosedel (Cz) bt P Haarhuis (Holl) 6-7, 6-2, 6-1. **Second round:** M Chang (US) bt S Schalken (Holl) 6-4, 6-3; M Larsson (Swe) bt M Rios (Chile) 6-3, 5-7, 7-6; G Kuerten (Br) bt W Ferreira (SA) 7-6, 1-6, 6-3; T Muster (Austria) bt A Voinea (Rom) 6-2, 6-4
INDIAN WELLS: Women's tournament: Third round: V Williams (US) bt I Majoli (Cro) 7-5, 3-6, 7-5; L Davenport (US) bt R Dragomir (Rom) 6-2, 6-1; M J Fernandez (US) bt F Po (US) 6-2, 6-3; C Martinez (Sp) bt C Rubin (US) 6-1, 1-6, 7-5. **Quarter-final:** A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) bt S Testud (Fr) 3-6, 6-2, 6-2

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: No client with 23pts. 22pts £55,803.50. 21pts £374.80. 20pts £21.45. 19pts £7.00. Half-time results (17pts max) £10.70. Four draws: £290.90. Ten homes, £3.05. Five aways: £7.53.
VERNONS. Treble chance. 23pts £251,741.00. 22pts £1,313.45. 21pts £279.20. Super shots, £19.80. Premier ten £8.05
ZETTERS Treble chance: 23pts £45,435.30. 22pts £597.85. 21pts £32.40. 20pts £2.70. Eight aways. No maximum 23pts winners. 22pts £231.30. 21pts £3.15. 20pts 45p. Four draws (nothing barred) £200.80. Eight homes (nothing barred) 80p. Four aways £480.40. Super seven £215

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

Hands on which each side has a fit in two suits often produce big swings. This example is from the Premier League match between Patterson and Armstrong.

Dealer North **East-West game** **IMPs**

North:
♠ K 10 4 3
♥ —
♦ 5 4 2
♣ K Q J 10 8 4

West:
♠ 9
♥ 10 9 8 5 2
♦ A Q 9 3
♣ 7 6 2

East:
♠ 7
♥ A K J 7 6 3
♦ K 10 8 7 6
♣ 5

South:
♠ A Q J 8 6 5 2
♥ Q 4
♦ J
♣ A 9 3

W	N	E	S
Senior	Whittaker	Sheehan	Patterson
—	1 C	1 H	1 S
4 D	4 S	4 NT	5 H
Pass	5 S	6 H	6 S
Double	All Pass		

Contract: Six Spades Doubled by South. Lead: ace of diamonds

Senior's bid of Four Diamonds over South's One Spade was a "fit jump". Many tournament players use jumps in competitive situations to show support for partner's suit and strength in the suit in which they jump. It is normal to jump to the level you wish to play at. Thus if Senior considered his hand worth only a raise to Three Hearts, he would have bid Three Diamonds.

Over North's Four Spades I had a tricky tactical problem. My aim was to buy the contract at as low a level as possible, so I tried 4 NT (Five Ace Blackwood). Senior's pass of South's phoney cue-bid of Five Hearts showed one ace. So when I bid Six Hearts over Five Spades I knew I was going one down, but it seemed likely that North-South would make Five Spades.

Over Six Spades, this was Senior's dilemma. If I was bidding Six Hearts because I thought I could make it, to pass would be inviting me to bid on. As he was completely minimum for his bidding so far, his double warned me not to. On the other hand, if I was bidding Six Hearts sacrificially, he should pass — he has already described his hand. Not clear in my view. Had he passed I would have bid Seven Hearts, for 500 to North-South.

As it was, I thought he had a black trick as well as the ace of diamonds. At least the diamond lead held them to twelve tricks.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

World leaders

With election fever upon us I introduce today the first in a series of occasional articles covering chess exploits by world leaders, politicians and international diplomats. It is a well attested fact that the Caliphs of ancient Baghdad around 1,000 years ago were enthusiastic chessplayers. Similarly, the biography of Alexius Comnenus, the 11th century Byzantine Emperor, recalls that he was playing chess when surprised by a murderous group of conspirators. The quick-witted Alexius escaped but had the conspirators executed.

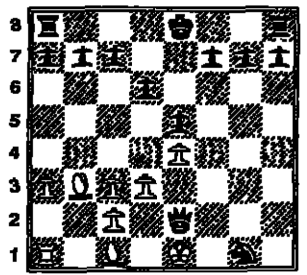
I launch the series today with a game by Napoleon Bonaparte against the Automaton, otherwise known as the Turk. The automaton was an ingenious machine designed by Baron Wolfgang von Kempelen, the Austrian mechanical genius. It was reputed that a human player was concealed inside, but no-one ever conclusively proved this. Several games by the French emperor have come down to us, but the vast majority exhibit a suspiciously high degree of skill by Napoleon. My personal belief is that the game which follows, played at Schoenbrunn Castle in Vienna in 1809, is the only authentic one. White's play is quite feeble, which seems perfectly consistent with the chess-playing ability of a man who had spent most of his life conquering Europe and had little time to read chess books.

White: Napoleon
Black: The Automaton
Schoenbrunn 1809

King Pawn Opening

1	e4	e5
2	Qf3	Nc6
3	Bc4	Nf6
4	Ne2	Bc5
5	a3	d6
6	0-0	Bg4
7	Qd3	Nh5
8	h3	Bxe2
9	Qxe2	Nf4
10	Qe1	Nd4
11	Bb3	Nxh3+
12	Kh2	Qh4
13	g3	Nf3+
14	Kg2	Nxe1+
15	Rxe1	Qg4
16	d3	Bxf2
17	Rh1	Qxg3+
18	Kf1	Bd4
19	Ke2	Qg2+
20	Kd1	Qxh1+
21	Kd2	Qg2+
22	Ke1	Ng1
23	Nc3	Bxc3+
24	bxc3	Qe2 checkmate

Diagram of final position



White's crude attempt with his second and third moves to play for Scholar's Mate on f7 is brusquely brushed aside. Indeed, the machine could have won more efficiently on move 11, either by 11 ... Qg5 or by 11 ... Nf3+ 12 gxf3 Qg5+.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

DICKENSIANS

DATCHERY
a. A jolly widow
b. A mysterious stranger
c. A naughty schoolboy

STIGGINS
a. A police nark
b. A little milliner
c. A God-botherer

CODLIN
a. A travelling showman
b. An orphan with expectations
c. A mild school usher

CORNEY
a. A minor Pickwickian
b. A Cockney prankster
c. A cruel matron

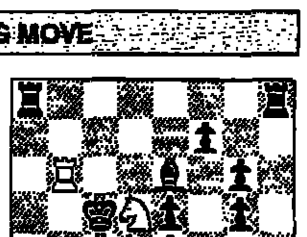
Answers on page 42

WINNING MOVE

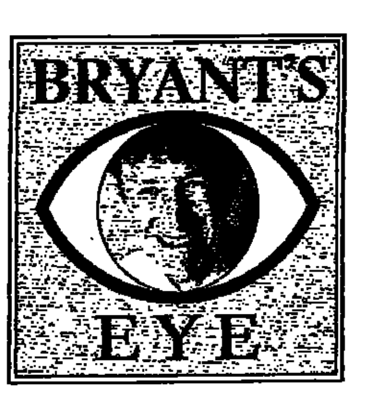
By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Kotronias — Velikovic, Greece 1997. There is a maxim in chess that the king is a strong piece and that in the endgame one should try to use it aggressively. This advice is often good, but not always. Today's position is an exception where Black's active king play leads to his downfall. How did White continue?

Solution on page 42



Trust scores top marks for games initiative



If British sport is going to learn a few lessons in how to take on the world it had better get back to school. This week there are encouraging signs that, at last, it might be doing just that.

Yesterday it was announced that half-a-dozen state secondary schools have been chosen to become the first of a chain of sponsored sports colleges under a scheme promoted by the Youth Sports Trust.

And in a quite separate initiative, Arsenal Football Club is offering £250,000 to a London comprehensive school to create extra places to educate what the club hopes will be its players of the future.

The Youth Sports Trust scheme first kicked off last September and is aimed at raising sporting standards by providing top-class facilities and coaching in state schools. The chosen schools will get a mixture of business sponsorship and government money, and the plan is that they will pass on sporting talent to the much heralded Sports Academy — the pet project of John Major that has yet to be established.

Tony Maxwell, the headteacher of one of the chosen schools, Barking Abbey comprehensive in East London, is a former international runner and Cambridge Blue, who has long been convinced of the benefits of sport.

"Every one of the 1,600 children in this school, as well as people in the local community, should benefit from the funds coming in to enhance sport," Maxwell said, "and the spin-off is not only on the sports field. Sporting discipline, particularly in a team, develops qualities that are very useful throughout life. Far from getting in the way of their academic work, I see plenty of sportsmen and women going on to do very well in their careers."

> 'The spin-off is not only on the sports field'

It is a neighbouring East London comprehensive school that is being targeted by Arsenal. The club hopes to sign a deal that will allow ten 13-year-olds to join Highams Park School each year.

Liam Brady, the former Ireland international, now Arsenal's director of youth development, hopes that the boys, who will have signed schoolboy forms with the club, will be able to transfer from other London schools to Highams Park.

There they would take part in the normal school curriculum, but have special coaching sessions during lunch breaks and after school. Such is the reputation of the school, which opted out of council control in 1991 and does well in exam league tables, that Arsenal reckon parents will be tempted to sign them up with the club, knowing that even if they do not make it in professional football they will still have had a good education.

If such schemes work they will be a welcome reversal of a sorry trend that has almost wiped out sport in many of our state schools. For far too long the sporting ethos in schools has been kicked ragged by the selling off of playing fields to raise quick cash to shore up overstretched budgets.

More than 5,000 playing fields have vanished this way in the past dozen years and the very notion of competitive sport has been called into question by "politically correct" voices within the teaching profession.

British schools were once the fertile seed-bed of modern sport, with the great ball games of rugby and soccer developed in our schools. In the first half of this century the place of sport in British education was much envied and imitated around the world.

Baron de Coubertin, the French aristocrat whose vision gave birth to the modern Olympic Games, was inspired by a description of our system written by a Frenchman, Hippolyte Taine. "Adolescence in England," he wrote, "is spent in the open air, the boys going free in the fields, waters and woods. In the English schools, athletic games, fives, football, running, rowing and, above all, cricket take up part of every day."

No wonder that the British sportsmen of that era believed they could take on the world — and win.

The tradition of a sporting elite enriching the fabric of a school was not given up so easily by the independent sector. Today such schools as Millfield, in Somerset, Ardingly College, in West Sussex, and Queenswood, in Hertfordshire, all give awards or sports scholarships to develop young sporting talent.

These schools are often regarded with a mixture of suspicion and envy, but the Headmasters' Conference, the elite club of fee-paying schools, has even held talks with Iain Sproat, the Minister for Sport, about extending similar schemes to take in hundreds more youngsters from state schools.

The Arsenal plan and the six sports colleges announced yesterday are small, but very welcome steps in the right direction. We need many more. For there was another report about children published yesterday, and it is altogether more alarming.

> 'They are small steps in the right direction'

A group of doctors from St Thomas's Hospital in London, surveying the health of British youth, found that lack of exercise, a diet high in junk food and a "couch potato" lifestyle are producing a generation of children measurably fatter than any before.

If we do not do something about the physical education of our children in schools, these children will grow up into a generation that thinks sport is just for spectators.

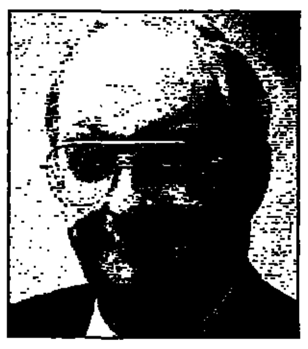
It is great to see gifted foreign players gracing English football, but it is up to our schools to stop us from becoming a nation that has forgotten how to play its own games.

JOHN BRYANT

Muggeridge unhinged in second round by off-court distractions

Constable paints picture of hope for England coach

DAVID MILLER



ENGLISH badminton is in the odd position of having recently added to the national coaching team Park Joo Bong, of South Korea, the world's best doubles player, at a time when there is no man in the top 30 singles ranking and only Joanne Muggeridge, at No 29, among the women.

Yesterday Mark Constable, the runner-up in the European junior championships two years ago, may have given Park cause to think that he has material with which to work. In the second round of the Yonex All England Open championships, Constable led Heryanto Arbi, of Indonesia, the world champion of 1995, by a game and 9-3. Arbi then recaptured his form and Constable slowly slipped away, losing 10-15, 15-10, 15-9 in little more than an hour.

With more than £80,000 in prize-money, the All England ranks third in prize-money totals, but is still the blue riband event of the sport outside the Olympic Games, of which badminton became part in 1992. The concourse at the National Indoor Area in Birmingham is as cosmopolitan this week as Heathrow's terminal three.

Constable seemed as though he were about to surprise a sizeable midday crowd, but his aggressive game is not yet sufficiently consistent to maintain the upper hand against someone of Arbi's pedigree. Even when behind, Arbi seldom wasted a movement, whereas Constable, by comparison, was lunging, stretching and occasionally gasping.

Steve Baddeley, the elite director of the Badminton Association of England (BAE), was much encouraged. "Mark may lack finess at the moment, but he has the heart and the stamina, which is always a part of the English game," he said. Just when it looked as if Constable might be swept aside, when 8-3 down in the final game, he rallied strongly, repeatedly regained service and Arbi had to pull out some of his most ferocious smashes as Constable began to close the gap.

Muggeridge, who has been dismissed by Baddeley from the women's national training squad, had won her first round match, but yesterday was rapidly unseated by Kanako Yonekura, from Japan, who won in 25 minutes. Muggeridge played efficiently for a while, but could not stand the pace of long rallies, thereby possibly substantiating Baddeley's allegation of lack of fitness.

However, it later emerged that a statement on March 3 by Geoffrey Snowdon, the chief executive of the BAE, that Muggeridge had broken regulations by going to play a tournament in Germany, and had thereby made herself ineligible, may be inaccurate. Before leaving for Germany, she had already received Baddeley's letter saying that he was withdrawing funding and her squad membership.

Muggeridge's solicitors are pondering on that age-old narrow line of disputes in all sports between players and governing bodies — that there is no obligation on governing bodies to select a player to represent their country even when ranked No 1, as Muggeridge has been, but do they have the right publicly to announce that a player is not even being considered?

Yesterday Muggeridge was, expectedly, bubbling with righteous indignation. "It's a wonder I was able to play at all, considering what's been going on," she said. "I've no one cheering me, none of the team encourage me. I think that's pretty bad, but it's the management, really."

She went on to pay tribute to her opponent. "I didn't realise she has such good shots," Muggeridge said. "I was trying so hard, but my concentration wasn't there. I wasn't thinking properly about what shots to play, about hitting it right."

She insisted that there was no query about her fitness by Steve Green, a Lawn Tennis Association trainer with whom she works. "There's no problem," she said. Baddeley had earlier requested that Muggeridge, who in the past has been overweight — and possible still is — should have her fitness monitored by Asger Madsen, one of the national coaches.

Results, page 41

STEVE HILL

Martin Lundgaard Hansen, of Denmark, in action in Birmingham yesterday

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 41

DATCHERY

(b) A mysterious stranger with white hair and black eyebrows in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. He appears without explanation in Cloisterham, where he finds lodgings with the Topes. There are strong hints that he may be disguised.

STIGGINS

(c) A dissenting preacher, the "deputy shepherd" of the Emmanuel Chapel at Dorking. In *The Pickwick Papers* the second Mrs Weller is a devoted member of his congregation.

CODLIN

(a) Thomas Codlin is a travelling Punch and Judy man, partner of Short in *The Old Curiosity Shop*. He is a melancholy, devious individual who would have betrayed Little Nell and her Grandfather to the authorities as runaways, had she not suspected and escaped him.

CORNEY

(c) Mrs Corney is the brutal widowed matron of the workhouse where Oliver Twist was born. From the dying pauper who had nursed his mother she learns the secret of his birth, and becomes an accomplice of Monks in his scheme to defraud Oliver of his inheritance. Bumble, having married her, is involved in the plot by his dominating partner.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 b4+! Kxc4 2 Ne3+ Kc3 3 Rd3 checkmate

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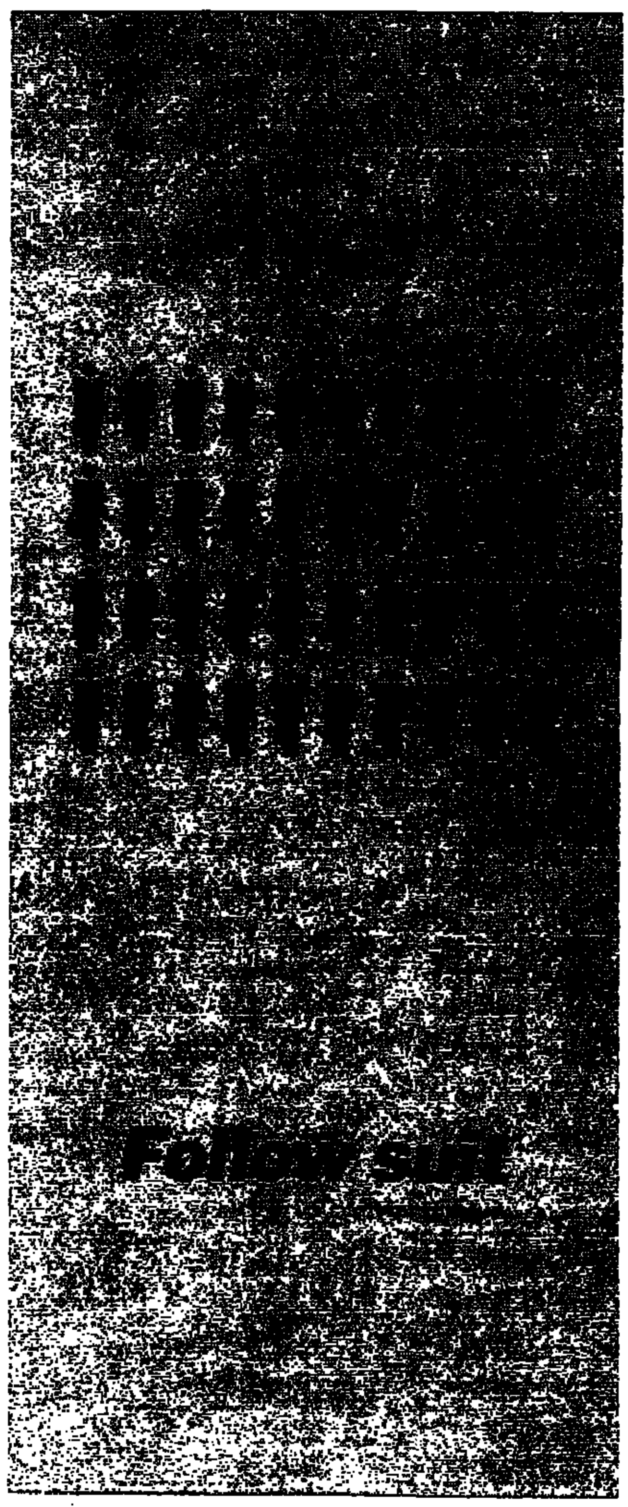

RADIO CHOICE

A black mark for justice

Document: Chocolate Soldier from the USA. *Radio 4, 7.20pm.*

Seventeen out of the 18 black American soldiers charged with rape while stationed in Britain during the last war were hanged. The odd man out was Leroy Henry. He would have mounted the scaffold as well had 33,000 Somerset folk not petitioned General Eisenhower for mercy. George Pixley's investigation is a shocking indictment of a legal system that permitted commanding officers to charge the alleged rapist and pick both jury and defence and prosecution counsels. In effect, the same legal system that discriminated against blacks in the US was exported to the UK where racism was all but unknown, although the Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden once urged that black American soldiers should not be sent to Britain because "the weather was not suited to them".

Thursday Afternoon Play: The Earthquake Girl. *Radio 4, 2.00pm.*

Touching at times, gently humorous and quite unlike any BBC play I have heard for ages, this is Katie Hims's writing debut and I shall be watching her progress up the ladder. Saskia Reeves plays the librarian and would-be novelist who convinces herself that she is a one-women disaster area. Whatever romance and initiative she might harbour manifests itself only through her writing. Her boss speaks more truth than she realises when she declares that librarians not only categorise their books but are themselves categorised by their actions.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe, includes Newsbeat **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley, includes at **12.30pm** Newsbeat **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Kevin Greening **6.15** Newsbeat **6.30** Evening Session with Steve Lamacq **8.30** John Peel **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00am** Dave Pearce **4.00am** Clive Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester **7.30** Sarah Kennedy **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue. With Humphrey Lyttelton, Barry Cryer, Graeme Garden, Jeremy Hardy and the late Willie Rushton (r) **7.30** David Allan **9.00** Paul Jones **10.00** Amazing Grace. Cy Grant presents a history of the Negro spiritual (3/3) **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Charles Nove

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **9.00** The Magazine **12.00** Midday with Mair **1.50** The Cheltenham Festival with John Inverdale and Sybil Ruscoe **4.30** Nationwide with Julian Worricker **7.00** News **7.35** On the Line **8.00** Inside Edge with Rob Bonnet **9.00** SportsAmerica with Alton Byrd **9.30** Sportshop with Adrian Goldberg **10.00** News Talk with Paul Reynolds **11.00** News Extra with Valerie Sanderson **12.00** After Hours — Early Call with Vincent Hanna **2.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Moz Dee's Sportszone **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. News on the hour. **5.30am** Europe Today **7.15** Off the Shelf **7.30** Network UK **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Composer of the Month **8.45** Health Matters **9.05** Business **9.15** Sports International **9.45** Sport **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Red Dwarf **11.30** Meridian On Screen **12.05pm** Business **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Assignment **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack **3.05** Sport **3.15** From Our Own Correspondent **3.30** Network UK **4.15** World Today **4.30** BBC English **4.45** Britain Today **5.30** Business **5.45** Sports Roundup **6.30** Assignment **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** John Peel **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian Books **10.30** World Today **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.10** Take Five **11.15** Soundbyte **11.30** World Ranking **12.30am** Good Books **12.45** Britain Today **1.30** Outlook **1.55** Words of Faith **2.30** A History of the British Theatre **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** Focus on Faith **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Breakfast Show **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto. Spohr (Clarinet Concerto No 1 in C minor Op 26) **3.00** Jamie Crick **7.00** Classic Newsnight with John Brunning **7.30** Sonata. Vivaldi (Oboe Sonata in C minor) **8.00** *Evening Concert.* Ravel (Bolero); Mahler (Kindertotenlieder); Sibelius (The Swan of Tuonela Op 22 No 2); Debussy (La Mer); Aaron Copland (Appalachian Spring) **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Sally Peterson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **7.00** Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Randal Lee Rose

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Includes Strauss (Sonatina No 2 for 13 Wind Instruments); Rosetti (Sinfonia in E); Glazunov (Violin Concerto in A minor); Mendelssohn (Capriccio in E minor); Purcell (Rejoice in the Lord); Humperdinck (Königskinder)

9.00 Morning Collection. Includes Telemann (Overture-Suite in B flat); Bach (French Suite No 4 in E flat, BWV815); Barber (Capricorn Concerto)

10.00 Musical Encounters, with Chris Wines. Includes Warlock (Capriol Suite); Garbarek (Viddene); Nielsen (Springtime on Funen); Walton (Suite Hamlet); Garbarek (Its Name is Secret Road); Ustad Fateh Ali Khan (Raga One); Verdi (Overture: Nabucco); Martinu (Concerto for Two Pianos)

12.00 Composers of the Week: Campra, Clérambault and Montéclair

1.00pm In Repertory. The *Times* opera critic, Rodney Milnes, talks to Leontyne Price about Verdi's Aida (4/5)

2.00 Music for Organ. Thomas Trotter gives a recital of Victorian and Edwardian music on the organ of Eton College Chapel. Includes Stanford (Fantasia and Toccata in D minor, Op 57); Widor (Organ Symphony No 8 in B, mvts two and three); Elgar, arr Lemare (Chanson de Matin; Pomp and Circumstance March No 1)

2.40 Smart to be Smart. Chris Tarrant remembers his days as a student

2.45 The BBC Orchestras. BBC Symphony Orchestra under Matthias Bamert. With Jean Rigby, mezzo. Brahms (Tragic Overture); Mahler (Kindertotenlieder); Tchaikovsky (Symphony No 6 in B minor) (r)

4.15 Before Stravinsky, with Anthony Burton. Includes music by Pergolesi, Gallo, Bach, Glock and Mozart (1/2)

5.00 Music Machine. The students of Queen Katharine School in Kendal are invited to put questions to the soprano Emma Kirby

5.15 In Tune, with Nicola Heywood Thomas. Includes Nielsen (Saul and David); Telemann (Concerto in D for Trumpet and Violin)

7.30 Rites of Spring. Live from the Festival Hall, London. BBC Symphony Orchestra, under Andrew Davis. With Kyoko Takezawa, violin. Stravinsky (Divertimento; Violin Concerto) **8.15** Goehr on Stravinsky **8.35** Concert, part 2. Stravinsky (Variations, Aldous Huxley in Memoriam; Symphony in E flat)

9.35 First Draft Pieces. The poets Simon Armitage and Glyn Maxwell continue their journey from the east coast of Brazil to the Amazon rainforest (4/5)

10.00 Music Restored. Women in Early Music (3/4)

10.45 Night Waves. Patrick Wright and guests assess the life and work of Marcel Duchamp

11.30 Composer of the Week: Webern (r)

12.10am Ariel, Who Sees Thee Now? John Harle talks to Phillip Pickett (3/3)

12.30 Jazz Notes, with Digby Fairweather

1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW) 6.00 News **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, includes Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament

9.00 News 9.05 The Moral Maze. A discussion series chaired by Michael Buerk. With David Cook, Janet Daley, Michael Mansfield, QC, and Dr David Starkey

10.00 News; In the Balance (FM). The footballing comedy thriller by Mark Tavener (6/6)

10.00 Daily Service (LW)

10.15 On This Day (LW)

10.30 Woman's Hour, with Jenni Murray

11.30 From Our Own Correspondent. Reports from BBC correspondents around the world

12.00 News; You and Yours, with Mark Whittaker

12.25pm Foul Play. Murder mystery panel game. With Simon Brett and the crime writers Sarah Dunant and Keith Miles **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke

1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast

2.00 News; Thursday Afternoon Play: The Earthquake Girl. See Choice

3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift. Max Boyce reports from Cardiff Arms Park as the bulldozers prepare to move in and make way for the new stadium

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Allen sees the premiere of the Gershwin-Weill musical *Lady in the Dark* and the new Martin Crimp play *Attempt on Her Life*

4.45 Short Story: Andy, by Michael Faber. Read by Kerry Ireland

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 Jeremy Hardy Speaks to the Nation, with Debbie Isitt and Gordon Kennedy

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 Document. *See Choice (6/6)*

8.00 The Road from Marriage Farm. The story of a Kentish family with words and music by Peter Cork and readings by Tim Pigott-Smith (r)

8.45 Stages of Redemption. The novelist Frances Fyfield reflects on enduring themes drawn from the narrative of Christ's suffering (4/6)

9.00 Does He Take Sugar? The programme made for, and by, people with disabilities. Presented by Frederick Dove

9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather

10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig

10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Lonely Londoners, by Sam Selvon. Read by Rudolph Walker (4/5)

11.00 Pet Semetary. A dramatisation for radio of the chilling novel by Stephen King. With John Sharian, Briony Glassco and Lee Montague (3/6)

11.30 Close Ups (FM). Nigel Williams talks to the actor Richard Widmark (6/6) (r)

11.30 Today in Parliament (LW)

12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: The Hobbit, by J.R.R. Tolkien. Read by Michael Hordern (9/15) (r)

12.48 Shipping Forecast

1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720 **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.**

Paradigms of joy, mourning and brutality

REVIEW

Lynne Truss

The important question to ask after Stephen Walker's **Modern Times** documentary last night (BBC2) is this: did it make you want to be Jewish? The answer in the majority of cases will surely be "Oy, you got to *ask*?" Telling the nuptial story of Michaela ("She's Jewish") and Steve ("He isn't"), *Jewish Wedding* was fast-paced, visually excessive and irresistibly pulse-quickening — in obvious reference to the culture it engagingly depicted. Bursts of frenzied Jewish dance music were a bit over-obviously persuasive in this "feel-good" department, but on the other hand were useful if we left-out goyim got carried away at home and wanted to practise that impossible Cossack-dancing thing on the floor.

The sympathies of the film-maker were made clear with the opening titles, when this music was used to somewhat cruel effect. Michaela's bustling, colourful family all got their introductions with its frantic ding-a-ding benefit ("COLIN — as the bride's father", "ANDREA — as the best friend"), but the music pointedly slithered to a halt for Steve's grey, ordinary parents. Ding-a-ding-a-nothing. Bob and Doris they were called — and frankly, they never stood a chance. Quietly sitting on grey chairs in a grey room, they needed only a dirgy refrain from *For Those in Peril on the Sea* to complete the picture of utter cultural contrast.

"I would say that we're quieter," they admitted, softly. "Most of our friends are quieter." They were clearly nice people, but fatally lacking the verve required to become sympathy figures in this film. When asked how they imagined a Jewish wedding to be, Doris said tentatively, with a little laugh, "Glitzy?"

Well, she was right about that, of course. Interestingly, it was their son who wanted the full works — tall, blond Steve, who had gamely memorised Jewish festivals (Michaela testing him in the bath), and had also submitted good-naturedly to foreskin removal, now wanted a knees-up to seal his new life. "You are volunteering to be in a minority," his rabbi warned him in a rare serious moment. "That's a tremendous step." But as he whirled and danced at his wonderful wedding, Steve appeared rather to be joining a bloody big gang, and glad of it.

Other documentaries last night required less of the viewer in the way of Cossack dancing, but just as much milk of human kindness. ITV's **Dunblane: Remembering Our Children** was a quiet, dignified and intelligent film with a precisely chosen title: without any mawkishness, its effect was to remind us that the children killed at Dunblane were real. "We called him our Wee Man," Sandy and Ellen said about their lost boy, John — and you could see why. Photographs showed a five-year-old in a miniature tweed jacket, tie and cloth cap, gorming hilariously for the camera, like a tiny old crofter on market day. "He was cheeky, funny, adorable, and" — Ellen sought for the right word, and smiled as she said it — "*fly*".

Whether talking about their children was good bereavement therapy for the parents was curiously beside the point; *Dunblane: Remembering Our Children* was not interested in begging trite sympathies, and was a million miles from the obnoxious, bleeding-heart piety of *Knock, Knock, Knocking on Heaven's Door*. This film appeared to be an honest account of how the parents are coping, how they have formed a support group (a group envied and resented by non-members), and how occasionally they have a carefree laugh and a drink, because life goes on, and coping with Dunblane is something there are no existing prescriptions for.

Meanwhile the viewer never felt intrusive, which made a pleasant change. The children were shown in treasured video-clips and photos, and the parents themselves judged exactly how much of their grief they were prepared to share. People advise these parents to "move on", and they are evidently doing their best. "But move on to where, exactly?" they asked. Nobody can tell them the answer to that.

If one were to judge documentaries by their power to shock and distress, by far the most successful of the evening was Channel 4's **Countryside Undercover**, shown at the same time as *Jewish Wedding* and *Dunblane*, so presumably watched by almost nobody. Of the three, however, it was certainly the one that will live longest in the memory. Entitled *Bringing Home the Bacon* it took hidden cameras to intensive pig farms, and discovered routine cruelties so awful that — well, the harrowing pig-slaughtering passage in *Jude the Obscure* will now seem like a June picnic by comparison.

"Does it hurt them?" asked our reporter with well-affected carelessness, watching a Yorskshire farmworker docking piglets' tails with a knife (an operation that's supposed to be done by a vet, and only if necessary). "Oh yes," grinned the man, stupidly, "That's why they're screaming." Here was unarguable evidence of cruelty that could never be obtained by legitimate means. Apart from being penned in nightmare conditions of constriction, smell and din, pigs were neglected, beaten, terrified, and slaughtered while inadequately stunned — ie, while conscious. Personally, I spent half an hour afterwards weeping from sheer shock.

What made matters a lot worse was a pointedly contrasting scene shot on an organic farm in Wiltshire, where the little pigs (still destined for the plate, of course) trotted about in lively groups, making happy piggy hoff-hoff noises, and flapping their ears.

BBC1

6.00am *Business Breakfast* (94684)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (99042)

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (5147042)

9.20 Style Challenge (4574619)

9.45 Kilroy (4174684)

10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (14232)

11.00 News (T) and weather (6190481)

11.05 The Really Useful Show (7702110)

11.35 Change That (8387042)

12.00 News (T) and weather (7244110)

12.05pm The Alphabet Game (5285313)

12.30 Going for a Song (6555481)

12.55 The Weather Show (79799145)

1.00 News (T) and weather (72329)

1.30 Regional News (83469690)

1.40 Neighbours (11690597)

2.05 Quincy (5032597)

2.50 As Time Goes By (5099348)

3.20 Noble Castles The leaning tower at Caerphilly castle (5202987)

3.30 Playdays (5152226) **3.50** Wham! Bam! Strawberry Jam! (8862333) **4.05** Casper Classics (9900619) **4.10** Rugrats (1224416) **4.35** The Really Wild Show (5262503) **5.00** Newsround (T) (3539706) **5.10** Grange Hill (T) (3365067)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (416868)

6.00 News (T) and weather (435)

6.30 Newsroom South East (T) (787)

7.00 Watchdog Consumer issues (T) (1665)

7.30 EastEnders Word of a new face on the Square spreads like wildfire, and while some residents celebrate, others realise life will never be the same again (T) (771)

8.00 CHOICE **Wildlife on One: The Butterfly — Beauty or the Beast?** Insight into survival strategies used by butterflys (T) (1923)

8.30 A Perfect State The plucky residents of Flatby have their funds axed by Whitehall mandarins (T) (2348)

9.00 Political Broadcast by the Labour Party (T) (347226) **WALES: 9.00** Political Broadcast by the Welsh Labour Party

9.05 News (T) and weather (467874)

9.35 Chalk Bungling Deputy Head Eric Slatt has to deny that he is the father when a sixth-former has a baby (T) (429874)

10.05 Men Behaving Badly Gary makes what he thinks is a romantic video to celebrate being reunited with Dorothy (r) (T) (501597)

10.35 Question Time Topical debate chaired by David Dimbleby. Former Conservative Prime Minister Sir Edward Heath and Labour veteran Tony Benn join Liberal Democrat Liz Lynne and author Frederick Forsyth to answer questions posed by members of the public in Birmingham (T) Followed by Remembering Dunblane (4327526)

11.40 The Mrs Merton Show with Vinnie Jones and Boy George (r) (T) (651329)

12.10am He Said, She Said (1991) with Kevin FILM Bacon and Elizabeth Perkins. Two journalists working on rival papers write about their love affair in their columns. Directed by Ken Kwapis and Marisa Silver (674559)

2.00 Weather (8235917)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

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BBC2

6.00am Open University (7173042) **6.25** Therapies on Trial (T) (7265077) **6.50** Health and Disease in Zimbabwe (9097706) **7.15** News (T) (7096597) **7.30** The Wacky Races (8857139) **7.55** Blue Peter (r) (T) (3220313) **8.20** Wishing (r) (7782690) **8.35** The Record (5813597) **9.00** The Science Collection (4489597) **9.25** Job Bank (7791313) **9.40** Megamaths (4549665) **10.00** Playdays (51394) **10.30** Storytime (7952400) **10.45** The Experimenter (2338348) **11.05** Space Ark (6284874) **11.15** In Living Memory (9243619) **11.35** Landmarks (T) (8467232) **11.55** Techno (9901313) **12.15pm** Quinze Minutes Plus (5354597)

12.30 Working Lunch (67868) **1.00** Liteschool (33439351) **1.25** Isabel (47585706) **1.45** Numbertime (83380139) **2.00** Wishing (36912868) **2.10** Everyone's Got One (2237961) **3.00** News (T) **3.05** Westminster (4986416) **3.55** News (T) **4.00** Today's the Day (400) **4.30** Ready, Steady, Cook (684) **5.00** Esther (2771)

5.30 Seniors Pot Black Second semi-final of the inaugural veterans' tournament (936)

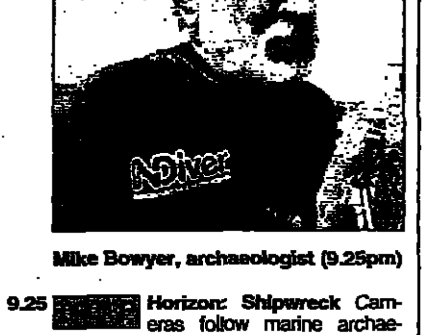
6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (T) (23684)

7.30 First Sight: The Promised Land? Charting the events which led to the hunger strike by asylum-seekers at Rochester Prison which began three months ago (313) **WALES:** Surely Some Mistake? **EAST:** Matter of Fact **MIDLANDS:** Midlands Report **NORTH/NORTH EAST/NORTH WEST/SOUTH WEST** Close Up **SOUTH:** Southern Eye

8.00 Surely Some Mistake? Last in the series analysing business disasters reports on Benetton, Anita Roddick and Pet Plan (T) (8955) **WALES:** Out of Time

8.30 Top Gear Michele Newman and Jeremy Clarkson report on the Geneva motor show (T) (3690)

9.00 3rd Rock from the Sun Harry and Tommy see career opportunities as doctors (T) (653139)



Mike Bowyer, archaeologist (9.25pm)

9.25 CHOICE **Horizon: Shipwreck** Cameras follow marine archaeologists (T) (713226)

10.15 Before I Die Louise Bishop, 21, had a new boyfriend and promotion when she discovered she had bone cancer. The film shows how she and her family coped (389077)

10.25 Political Broadcast: Labour (557936)

10.30 Newsnight (T) (850348)

11.15 Late Review (185706)

11.55 Skiing Forecast (615787)

12.00 The Midnight Hour (32608)

12.30am Learning Zone: Open University: News and the Democratic Agenda? 1.00 The Baby's in Your Court **1.30** France in the Viewfinder **2.00** Performing Arts **4.00** Suenos — World Spanish **5.00** The Small Business Programme

CHOICE

Wildlife on One:
The Butterfly — Beauty or the Beast?
BBC1, 8.00pm

The contention of this impressively-photographed film is that the butterfly copes with the rougher side of nature much more effectively than its delicate body and paper-thin wings might suggest. The proposition is tested and supported in footage from Australia, the United States, South America and, closer to home, north Wales. Like most wildlife films, the plot is about mating, breeding and survival but since the butterfly starts as an egg, which becomes a caterpillar and then a chrysalis, the narrative twists are richer than usual. Sir David Attenborough's commentary takes off into unexpected metaphors, as when he likens the process by which the cells of the chrysalis turn into wings, legs and eyes to "dropping bricks on to a sheet of plans and expecting St Paul's Cathedral to materialise".

A Cook on the Wild Side
Channel 4, 8.30pm

Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall (crazy name, crazy guy) returns for a second series of the show in which he forsakes the supermarket shelves in favour of food from the wild. He is travelling by canal barge this time, though for most of his sustenance he is forced on to dry land. It is nobody's fault that the first day of spring should look like the depths of winter but F-W is nothing if not cheerful and resourceful. Whether anybody would like to exist on his countryside gleanings is another matter. Perhaps it is enough to be shown how to make wine from the sap of the birch tree, without having to drink it. The freshwater crayfish looks scarcely more appetising and tonight's best dish is hare. We see the hapless animal being netted, throttled and cooked with dumplings seasoned with hedgerow herbs.

Horizon: Shipwreck
BBC2, 9.25pm

You could say that this documentary is more about history and archaeology than the science which is *Horizon's* normal brief but it is a good enough tale for labels to become irrelevant. The seas around the Channel Islands are such a common site for shipwrecks that when divers off Alderney found a musket and took it to the local museum nobody was interested. But it was a first indication of what might be a very significant wreck indeed, possibly the first Elizabethan warship to be discovered and one that could have been part of Drake's fleet against the Spanish Armada. Enter Dr John Nolan, an American historian of the period, who doubts whether the wrecked ship was even English. The key piece of evidence is the ship's rudder. Its lifting from the seabed and the subsequent analysis of its size and timber gives the film a stirring climax.

Bright Sparks: Midnight Expresso
Channel 4, 9.45pm

It is wrong to pretend that student films are masterpieces when they are not, particularly when they last a mere ten minutes. But there is obvious talent on show in this series and Channel 4 deserves credit for exposing it to a wider audience. *Midnight Expresso* is a study by Eva Stefani and Idoko Kemeny from the National Film and Television School of the main railway station in Athens. It is a film of incidents, rather arbitrarily linked, and some of the local references need explaining to a British audience. It is not clear, for instance, why a group of young men in a train are shouting abuse at Bulgarians. But there is much careful and amused observation, not least of the human detritus which a station seems to collect as the evening wears on.

Peter Waymark

HTV

6.00am GMTV (6621058)

9.25 Chain Letters (4479110)

9.55 Regional News (T) (5278597)

10.00 The Time, the Place (51348)

10.30 This Morning (T) (39399526)

12.20pm Regional News (T) (7240394)

12.30 News (T) and weather (6653077)

12.54 HTV Crimestoppers (79612042) **12.55** Shortland Street (6565868) **1.25** Home and Away (T) (47490684) **1.50** Afternoon Live (11778329) **2.20** Vanessa (T) (56657936) **2.50** Afternoon Live (5084416)

3.20 News (T) (1602923)

3.25 Regional News (T) (2052464)

3.30 The Riddlers (5818413) **3.40** Wizadora (r) (9614226) **3.50** Cartoon Time (6502023) **3.55** Rupert (r) (5140481) **4.20** Mike and Angelo (1142868) **4.45** Reboot (r) (T) (5180955)

5.10 A Country Practice (r) (T) (5328771)

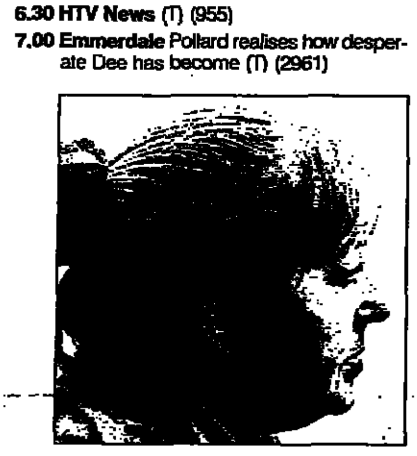
5.40 News (T) and weather (755874)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (426771)

6.25 HTV Weather (302752)

6.30 HTV News (T) (955)

7.00 Emmerdale Pollard realises how desperate Dee has become (T) (2961)



Gaynor Davenport (7.30pm)

7.30 3-D Julia Somerville reports on Gaynor Davenport, who claims she can communicate with horses (T) (139)

8.00 The Bill: Crying Wolf Monroe is called in to mediate when elderly neighbours accuse a former mental patient of threatening behaviour (T) (5481)

8.30 Michael Barrymore's Strike It Rich Game show (T) (7416)

9.00 Reckless Anna cannot make up her mind between Owen and Richard. Last in series (T) (3110)

10.00 Party Political Broadcast by the Labour Party (291868)

10.05 News (T) and weather (596665)

10.35 Regional News (T) (151139)

10.45 The West This Week Assessing the chances of the Conservatives winning the next General Election. Plus, a look at the security measures being taken to avoid a repeat of the recent violence at this weekend's derby between Bristol City and Bristol Rovers (506400)

11.35 Frieze Frame (181145)

11.50 Alfred Hitchcock Presents (848313) **12.15am Box Office America** (9579408) **12.40 In Bed with MeDinner** (5662917)

1.10 Funny Business (9768733)

1.40 Cyber Cafe (2690714)

2.10 Stand and Deliver (4983882)

3.10 3-D (r) (T) (38564153)

3.35 The Good Sex Guide Late (r) (2221559)

4.35 The Time, the Place (r) (36168578)

5.00 The New Mr and Mrs Show (r) (77356)

5.30 News (53191)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (6565868)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5328771)

6.25 Central News (507690)

6.55-7.00 Lifeline (373400)

10.45 Do I Not Like That! (500400)

11.45 Bagdad Cafe (171752)

12.15am Beyond Reality (66207)

12.45 Funny Business (3281085)

1.10 Ed's Night Party (3124998)

1.45 Club Nation (819608)

2.45 Shift (4146424)

3.40 Stand and Deliver (8786559)

4.35 Central Jobfinder '97 (2226518)

5.20 Asian Eye (8150443)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.55-1.25 Emmerdale (6565868)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5328771)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (62313)

10.45 Special Report (182868)

11.15 Tales from the Cider County (172481)

11.45 Traps (541348)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5328771)

6.00 Meridian Tonight (503)

6.30-7.00 Getaways (955)

10.35 Meridian News and Weather (893972)

10.55 Film: Gregory's Girl (79999941)

5.00am Freescreen (77356)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:

12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (6565868)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5328771)

6.25 Anglia News (507690)

10.34 Anglia Air Watch (420771)

10.45 Cover Story Crime Special (182868)

11.15 Hunter (507313)

12.15am Alfred Hitchcock Presents (9579408)

S4C

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (87394)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (82752)

9.00 The Morning Line (18058)

9.30 Ysgolion (185868)

12.00 House to House (25394)

12.30pm Ellen (52936)

1.00 Slot Meithrin (92139)

1.30 Racing from Cheltenham (415771)

4.30 An Inspector Calls (752)

5.00 5 Pump (4139)

5.30 Countdown (232)

6.00 Newyddion (468400)

6.05 Heno (517077)

6.35 Jacpot (319042)

7.00 Pobol y Cwm (610058)

7.25 Pwy 'Di Pwy? (992435)

8.00 Pam Fi Duw? (3023)

8.30 Darllediad Gwleidyddol: Y Blaid Lafur (258787)

8.35 Newyddion (452416)

9.05 The Queen Phenomenon (436145)

10.05 Film: What's Eating Gilbert Grape? (731145)

12.05am Cheltenham Festival Highlights (8034004)

12.45 Dispatches (8453284)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (87394) **7.00** The Big Breakfast (82752) **9.00** The Morning Line. A preview of the last day of the Cheltenham Festival (18058)

9.30 Schools (185868)

12.00 House to House (25394)

12.30pm The Devil's Islands The wildlife of the Saltee Islands, off the coast of Ireland (r) (T) (52936)

1.00 Ellen Getting engaged causes a problem for Paige: should she wear the ring her fiancé bought her or one she paid for herself (T) (92139)

1.30 Racing from Cheltenham Brough Scott introduces live coverage of the **2.00, 2.35, 3.15** (Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup Chase) and **3.55** races (415771)

4.30 Countdown (T) (752)

5.00 Ricki Lake (T) (4139)

5.30 Pet Rescue An update on Duchess the greyhound's progress in her new environment (T) (232)

6.00 Hangin' with Mr Cooper The fourth series of the American comedy about a young man who returns home to teach at his old high school (T) (145)

6.30 Hollyoaks Teen soap (T) (597)

7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (368329)

7.50 Winners and Losers (319077)

8.00 Shop Till You Drop The third in the series explores the extreme behaviour that goes on in supermarkets at Christmas (T) (3023)

Fishing for food (8.30pm)

8.30 CHOICE **A Cook on the Wild Side** A new four-part series in which chef Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall goes in search of food from the wild (T) (5058)

9.00 Dispatches A report on a series of case studies that suggest the NHS is no longer free for everybody (T) (801435)

9.45 CHOICE **Bright Sparks: Midnight Expresso** A film set in the centre of Athens's largest railway station (T) (635810)

10.00 Close My Eyes (1990) with Clive Owen, FILM Saskia Reeves and Alan Rickman. When a brother and sister who have been apart for most of their lives are reunited their affection for one another develops into something stronger. Directed by Stephen Poliakoff (T) (54659936)

12.05am Racing Highlights of this afternoon's card from the Cheltenham Festival (6033511)

12.35 Dominick and Eugene (1988) with Tom FILM Hulce, Ray Liotta and Jamie Lee Curtis. The story of twin brothers — one dim, the other brilliant. Directed by Robert M. Young (97761172)

2.40 One Family The Narsingippa family from Lukor in southern India (r) (4663578)

3.40 Schools (902172)

5.05 Off Limits (r) (T) (7954085)

5.30 Backdate (r) (T) (51733)

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (654690) **9.00** Regis and Kathie Lee (64955) **10.00** Another World (23023) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (16787) **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (99435) **1.00pm** Geraldo (65905) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (52905) **3.00** Jenny Jones (34049) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (14226) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (4348) **6.00** Real TV (4400) **6.30** Married — with Children (5752) **7.00** The Simpsons (5077) **7.30** M*A*S*H (1936) **8.00** Just Kidding (8597) **8.30** The Nanny (3232) **9.00** Seinfeld (33810) **9.30** Mad About You (94936) **10.00** Chicago Hope (20329) **11.00** Selina Scott Tonight (15955) **11.30** Star Trek: The Next Generation (12752) **12.30am** L.A.P.D. (59801) **1.00** Hit Mix Long Play (1839849)

SKY 2

7.00pm Hercules: The Legendary Journeys (6854481) **8.00** Sliders (6943329) **9.00** Highlander (6850665) **10.00** Tek War (6853752) **11.00** Late Show (6484955) **12.00** Hit Mix Long Play (9357795)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am The Big Show (1961) (88771) **8.00 The Best Little Girl in the World (1981)** (96435) **10.00 Curse of the Viking Grave (1991)** (81416) **12.00 Radioland Murders (1994)** (86058) **2.00pm Follow the River (1995)** (21481) **4.00 Things Change (1988)** (8752) **6.00 The Great Outdoors (1988)** (3580877) **7.40** US Top 10 (427435) **8.00 Trial by Jury (1994)** (29690) **10.00 Cobb (1994)** (56510416) **12.10am Mr Jones (1993)** (365153) **2.00 Come Die with Me (1994)** (65827) **3.30 No Ordinary Summer (1994)** (745191)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am A Girl Must Live (1939) (1236936) **7.20 The Tall T (1957)** (4951685) **8.40 Little Norse Prince Valiant (1995)** (61805955) **10.15 Where the Red Fern Grows: Part Two (1990)** (69596955) **12.00 The Vengeance of She (1967)** (60400) **2.00pm My Brother's Keeper (1994)** (39023) **4.00 Little Norse Prince Valiant (1995)** (4394) **6.00 Family Prayers (1991)** (22787) **8.00 Bushwacked (1995)** (14416) **9.30 The Movie Show** (83874) **10.00 Jack and Sarah (1995)** (725139) **11.50 Anthony's Desire (1993)** (441690) **1.25am The Disappearance of Vonnie (1994)** (747909) **3.00 Out of Annie's Past (1994)** (118068) **4.35 The Tall T (1957)** (5516627)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm Country Girl (1954) (3656597) **8.00 Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986)** (3651042) **10.00 The Dead Pool (1988)** (9786226) **11.35 All the Right Moves (1983)** (3818077) **1.15am Radio Days (1987)** (3244462) **2.45 Badman's Territory (1946)** (8287820) **4.25-5.55 The Lady from Shanghai (1948)** (34283153)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from **5am to 9pm**, then **TNT** films as follows. **9.00pm The Good Old Boys (1994)** (92952481) **11.00 Escape from Fort Bravo (1953)** (92915110) **12.45am Young Cassidy (1965)** (67162375) **2.40-5.00 The King's Thief (1955)** (38900269)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over at 10pm. **6.00am** Mouse Tracks (3426969) **6.25** Quack Attack (9927954) **6.50** Bonkers (3539058) **7.15** Little Mermaid (1843145) **7.40** Aladdin (2058955) **8.05** Goof Troop (3169771) **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa (2494067) **8.40** Care Bears (1613503) **9.10** Groundling Marsh (2032690) **9.40** Big Garage (6135771) **9.55** Lamb Chop (6964139) **10.25** Muppet Babies (5025139) **10.50** Dumbo's Circus (1959226) **11.20** Mouse Tracks (4596481) **11.50** Pooh Corner (1157416) **12.20pm** Timon and Pumbaa (6009077) **12.35** Little Mermaid (6631058) **1.00** Disney Presents (1710232) **1.50** Aladdin (62768481) **2.10** Darkwing Duck (59182787) **2.35** Bonkers (5848023) **3.00** Quack Attack (7885923) **3.25** Timon and Pumbaa (4891684) **3.35** Goof Troop (5054787) **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa (4902139) **4.10** Goof Troop (9221042) **4.35** Bonkers (5837313) **5.00** Aladdin (6444065) **5.25** Timon and Pumbaa (6332110) **5.35** Darkwing Duck (480058) **6.00** Bone Chillers (7955) **6.30** Boy Meets World (4435) **7.00** Brotherly Love (6503) **7.30 FILM: Savage Sam** (54290503) **9.10** Tarzan (635868) **9.30-10.00** Golden Girls (40752)

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Three Little Ghosts (5222771) **6.30** Inspector Gadget (7503619) **7.00** Samurai Pizza Cats (6571435) **7.30** Power Rangers (6487042) **8.00** Masked Rider (7465684) **8.30** Crocadoo (7464955) **9.00** Rimba's Island (5729706) **9.25** Why Why Family (2225706) **9.30** Zoobilee Zoo (3822394) **9.55** Why Why Family (5334464) **10.00** Rimba's Island (3635431) **10.25** Why Why Family (5071313) **10.30** Zoobilee Zoo (93705394) **10.55** Why Why Family (92937058) **11.00** Princess Starla (2916110) **11.30** Pinocchio (2924139) **12.00** Billy the Cat (7468771) **12.30pm** VR Troopers (29091145) **12.50** Power Rangers (29908481) **1.10** Masked Rider (25677961) **1.30** Ace Venture (6250400) **2.00** Casper (4510313) **2.30** Life with Louie (4655464) **3.00** Eek-Stravaganza (4602348) **3.30** Ace Ventura (6040889) **4.00** Casper (8645176) **4.30** Power Rangers (5201508) **5.00** Masked Rider (4501665) **5.30** Spiderman (5651400) **6.00** Goosebumps (3205923) **6.30-7.00** Sweet Valley High (9500315)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (66706) **7.30** Wrestling (63095) **8.30** Racing News (79706) **9.00** Sports Centre (60058) **9.30** Aerobics (20810) **10.00** Futbol Mundial (46400) **10.30** Golf: Portuguese Open — Live (89771) **12.30pm** World of Super League (79394) **2.30** Iron Woman (1955) **3.00** Golf: Portuguese Open — Live (49874) **4.59** Sports Centre (6932936) **5.00** Wrestling (6394) **6.00** Sports Centre (2684) **6.30** Netbusters (3936) **7.00** Schoolboy Football: Northern Ireland v England — Live (73042) **8.59** Sports Centre (562313) **9.00** Trans World Sport (85226) **10.00** Sports Centre (78023) **10.30** Tight Lines (46874) **11.30** Trans World Sport (67226) **12.30am** Sports Centre (61675) **1.00** Golf: Portuguese Open (87171) **2.30-3.00** Sports Centre (17172)

SKY SPORTS 2

6.00pm Tight Lines (4540313) **9.00** Football League Review (4633077) **10.00** Spanish Football (4530936) **11.00** Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook (8330110) **12.30am-1.00** Second Innings (7790398)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Ice Hockey (97465990) **2.30pm** Rugby League Classics (62021955) **4.00** Grass Roots Rugby (83664226) **4.30** Sports Unlimited (87777232) **5.30** Inside the PGA Tour (83740690) **6.00** Beach Volleyball (56563145) **7.00** Sports Centre (7638869) **7.30** Golf: Portuguese Open (91931936) **9.00** Golf: Honda Classic (92961139) **11.00-11.30** Snowboard Show (12759110)

Madonna is one example of *Girl Power* (MTV all day)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Motors (96503) **8.30** Figure Skating: US Championships (85116) **10.00** Skiing: Women's Downhill Final (63665) **11.00** Skiing: Men's Downhill Final (96529) **12.00** Freeride (48690) **12.30pm** Cross-Country Skiing: Engadine Ski Marathon (20874) **1.00** Freestyle Skiing: World Cup Moguls — Live (21367) **2.00** Tennis: Newsweek Champions Cup (79665) **4.00** Skiing: Women's Super G Final — Live (54868) **5.00** Cross Country Skiing: World Cup (7690) **6.00** Sumo [illegible] **7.00** Skiing: Men's Super G Final — Live (74110) **8.00** Tennis: Newsweek Champions Cup — Live (3260890) **11.30** Motorsport (37753) **12.00-12.30am** Slam Magazine [illegible]

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am [illegible] **6.30** Once Upon a Time [illegible] **6.45** [illegible] **7.00** [illegible] (4363665) **7.15** [illegible] (5859329) **7.30** [illegible] (6501053) **8.00** Classic Coronation Street (4091145) **8.30** Families (4090416) **9.00** The Professionals (2957706) **10.00** Second Thoughts (7023955) **10.30** Two's Company (1907752) **11.00** Within These Walls (6810706) **12.00** Classic Coronation Street (4094032) **12.30pm** Families (7893752) **1.00** Albion Market (6718394) **1.30** Good Life Guide (7892023) **2.00** Drummonds (7024684) **3.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (1999058) **4.00** Doctor Series (6139416) **4.30** Second Thoughts (6056400) **5.00** The Professionals (6136042) **6.00** Families (6043665) **6.00** Classic Coronation Street (7801771) **7.00** Doctor Series (6137771) **7.30** Two's Company (6136329) **8.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (7541868) **9.00** Classic Coronation Street (1907077) **9.30** Comedians (7686116) **10.00-11.00** The Professionals (7637619) **From 11.00pm-2.00am Men and Motors**

GRANADA GOOD LIFE

From **6.00am-9.00** TV High Street From **9.00-12.00** Food and Wine From **12.00-3.00pm** Health and Beauty From **3.00-6.00** Home and Garden

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm [illegible] Yitzhak Rabin [illegible] **5.00** Jerusalem (3989329) **6.00** Four Years of Thunder (6411874) **7.00-8.00** Biography: Natalie Wood (4531665)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

1.00am Twilight Zone (1077733) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (3190443) **2.00** 100 Years of Horror (9665707) **2.30** Night Gallery (4615004) **3.00-4.00** Friday the 13th

TLC/DISCOVERY

9.00am Painting (2182706) **9.30** Grow with Joe (2822313) **10.00** Country Cooking (4552874) **10.30** Our House (2171690) **11.00** Fix It (5611503) **11.30** This Old House (5612232) **12.00** Yan (2099042) **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (2906329) **1.00** Today's Gourmet (8418348) **1.30** Home Again (2825400) **2.00** Hometime (4375481) **2.30** Furniture (8587348) **3.00** Two's Country (4467416) **3.30-4.00** This Old House **DISCOVERY takes over at 4.00pm.** **4.00pm** Fishing Adventures (8498400) **4.30** Breaking the Ice (8494684) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (4462961) **5.30** Beyond 2000 (8485936) **6.00** Wild Things (2914348) **7.00** Beyond 2000 (4386597) **7.30** Wonders of Weather (8495313) **8.00** The Professionals (3687110) **9.00** Top Marques 2 (5535139) **9.30** Disaster (2813665) **10.00** Medical Detectives (2090771) **10.30** Science Detectives (2189619) **11.00** Classic Wheels (8322597) **12.00** Tornado (2734356) **1.00am** Driving Passions (4404004) **1.30-2.00** The Extremists (6042714)

UK GOLD

7.00am Tellystack (6745597) **7.35** Neighbours (9673077) **8.00** Crossroads (1265752) **8.25** EastEnders (8536684) **9.00** The Bill (2088936) **9.30** Bread (2824771) **10.00** Never the Twain (4554232) **10.30** The Sullivans (2180348) **11.00** Juliet Bravo (8409690) **12.00** Crossroads (2091400) **12.30pm** Neighbours (2908787) **1.00** EastEnders (2485243) **1.35** No Place Like Home (3722619) **2.10** Emery (28913416) **2.20** Three Up, Two Down (7679400) **2.55** 'Allo 'Allo! (6972394) **3.30** The Bill (8488023) **4.00** All Creatures (5531313) **5.00** Generation Game (56516313) **6.05** EastEnders (9783446) **6.40** Are You Being Served? (3793874) **7.20** Russ Abbot (7684232) **7.50** Bullseye (6010955) **8.20** In Sickness and in Health (5730868) **9.00** The Bill (5537597) **9.30** Equalizer (9815058) **10.30** Bottom (3074690) **11.10** Young Ones (6808961) **11.50** Alexei Sayle (3052706) **12.25am** The Best of TOTP (2514646) **1.05** Pop Profile (2036820) **1.20** Miami Vice (3206608) **2.15** Shopping (52862207)

TCC

6.00am Anne of Green Gables/Road to Avonlea (68508) **7.00** Dennis the Menace (61874) **7.30** Dennis the Menace (77481) **8.00** Batman (49431) **8.30** Art Attack (99972) **9.00** Flash Gordon (28684) **9.30** Bobby's World (35874) **10.00** Romuald the Reindeer (58868) **10.30** Robinson Sucroe (22868) **11.00** Danger Mouse (81936) **11.30** Gravedale High (82685) **12.00** Oscar's Orchestra (19348) **12.30pm** Halfway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (39690) **1.00** By Way of the Stars (60145) **1.30** Black Beauty (38961) **2.00** Girl from Tomorrow (8961) **2.30** Ocean Odyssey (2400) **3.00** Art Attack (1868) **3.30** Flash Gordon (7145) **4.00** Batman (3752) **4.30-5.00** The Big Dish (9936)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Killer Tomatoes (91023) **6.30** Count Duckula (26690) **7.00** Rocko (9790348) **7.15** Hey Arnold! (6725400) **7.30** Rugrats (70955) **8.00** Doug (78077) **8.30** Arthur (77348) **9.00** Children's BBC (88400) **10.00** Wimzie's House (44042) **10.30** Babar (84684) **11.00** Magic School Bus (32690) **11.30** Henry's Cat/Wil Cwac Cwac/Lizzie's Library/Topsey and Tim/Jimbo (40619) **12.00** Bananas in Pyjamas (75936) **12.30pm** Little Bear Stories (19868) **1.00** Children's BBC (63619) **2.00** Dr Seuss (7077) **2.30** Kissyfur (9597) **3.00** Wishbone (3684) **3.30** Stickin' Around (4042) **4.00** Bruno (6077) **4.30** Rugrats (5861) **5.00** Sister Sister (8329) **5.30** Moesha (3313) **6.00** Press Gang (4446) **6.30-7.00** Doug

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm E UK (5665) **7.30** Roseanne (8690) **8.00** Roseanne (4313) **8.30** Monty Python (6348) **9.00** Cheers (56226) **9.30** Taxi (95232) **10.00** Garry Shandling (76685) **10.30** Frasier (85313) **11.00** The Doctor Is On (51771) **11.30** Monty Python (40226) **12.00** Nurses (18066) **12.30am** Soap (83897) **1.00** Cheers (68733) **1.30** Taxi (74882) **2.00** E UK (36207) **2.30** The Doctor Is On (15714) **3.00** Frasier (55269) **3.30-4.00** Garry Shandling (68086)

BRAVO

8.00pm Robocop (3681936) **9.00** Burning Zone (3674400) **10.00** Tour of Duty (3757787) **11.00 FILM: Turkish Delight** (6155232) **1.00am** Burning Zone (4686284) **2.00** Tour of Duty (9716733) **3.00 FILM: Spetters** (2830337) **5.00** Robocop (8040207)

UK LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living (2308042) **9.00** Gladrags and Glamour (3127042) **9.15** Gordon Elliott (8269348) **10.05** Jerry Springer (4306874) **11.00** Young and the Restless (8700503) **11.45** Super Fresco (44014597) **11.50** Brookside (3056941) **12.25pm** Why Me? (70347226) **12.55** Tempest (3925771) **1.40** Rolonda (9351684) **2.30** Agony Experience (2543868) **3.00** Live at Three (49935042) **4.05** Jerry Springer (5009435) **5.00** Super Fresco (37557348) **5.05** Lingo (84691023) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (2547684) **6.00** I Dream of Jeannie (6513665) **6.35** Ready, Steady, Cook (3201684) **7.05** Brookside (1358961) **7.40** Who's Sorry Now? (6375961) **8.05** Rolonda (8699706) **9.00 FILM: A Bunny's Tale** (84443058) **10.55** Sex Life (3732077) **11.25-12.00** More Sex Life (7402313)

CHALLENGE TV

5.00pm Prize Time (8342597) **5.05** Blockbusters (1054752) **5.35** Prize Time (585077) **5.50** Spellbound (498077) **6.20** Prize Time (821936) **6.30** Catchphrase (388787) **6.55** Prize Time (827771) **7.05** Sale of the Century (342665) **7.30** Prize Time (840042) **7.40** Gives Us a Clue (153868) **8.10** Prize Time (166329) **8.20** All Clued Up (391706) **8.50** Prize Time (191329) **9.00** Through the Keyhole (538023) **9.25** Prize Time (958508) **9.35** Busman's Holiday (421752) **10.00** Prize Time (191874) **10.05** Treasure Hunt (461477) **11.05** Prize Time (517495) **11.20** Love at First Sight (761665) **11.45** Prize Time (907145) **12.00** Sale of the Century (56240) **12.30am** Hart to Hart (25627) **1.30** Lou Grant (57646) **2.30** Snowy River: The McGregor Saga (12462) **3.30** All Together Now (44240) **4.00-5.00** Fall Guy (65153)

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran **7.30** ZEE Morning **8.30** Business **9.00** Hasya Tere Ghar Vasya **9.30** Campus **10.00** Sahil **11.00** Aashiana **11.30** Banegi Apni Baat **12.00** Dastaan **12.30pm** Sauda **1.00 FILM 4.00** ZEE Zone **4.10** Top 10 **5.10** Vikram Aur Beetal **6.00** Sorry Meri Lorry **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** Euro Zindagi **7.30** Cinemagic **8.00** News **8.35** Andaz **9.05** Jaal **9.30** Hasretein **10.00** Commander **10.30** Song Yaatra **11.00** Horror **11.30-12.00** Aap Ki Farmaish

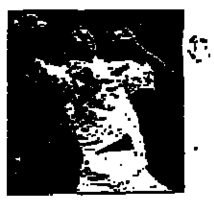
MTV

The 24 hour music channel Includes news, reviews, live concert footage, interviews and the latest music video charts

CRICKET 41
Vote for Graveney heralds change in selection process

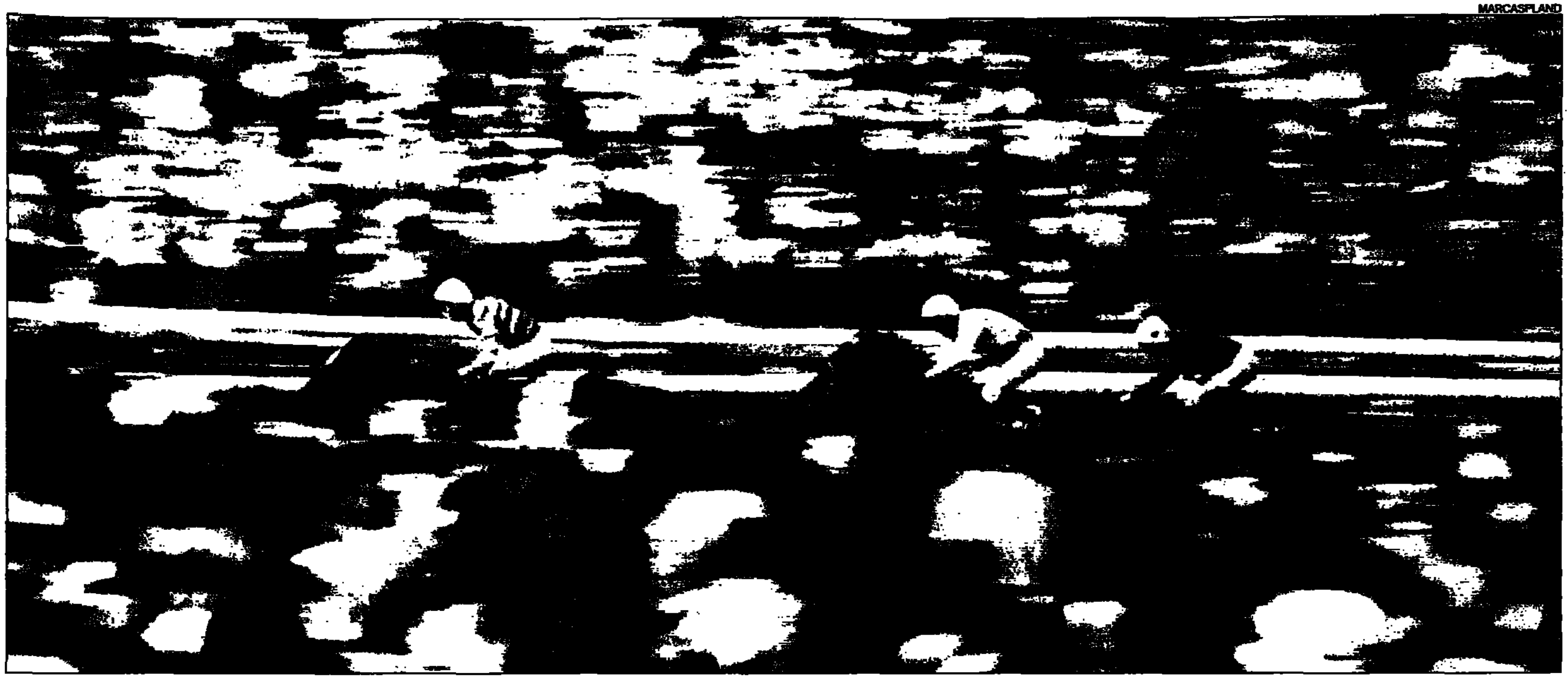
SPORT

BADMINTON 42
English unable to come to terms with foreign legion



THURSDAY MARCH 13 1997

Crowds flock to Cheltenham on eve of wide-open Gold Cup



MARCASPLAND

BUMPER crowds have attended Cheltenham this week and 60,000 are expected today for the most open running of the Tote Gold Cup since 1979, although the final line-up will not be known until shortly before the race (Richard Evans writes). At least three of the declared 15 runners may miss the feature event of the three-day National Hunt Festival because of the unseasonably dry ground, including Coome Hill, who is 11-2 joint favourite with Imperial Call, the winner last year.

Walter Dennis, who trains Coome Hill, will walk the course this morning before deciding whether his Hennessy Gold Cup winner will run. "My only concern is for the horse. If it's safe ground, he will run," he said. Addington Boy and Dorans Pride are also doubtful.

About £10 million will be wagered on the Gold Cup — exceeded only by betting on the Grand National and the Derby — but bookmakers will be wary of Martin Pipe's two representatives. Cyborgo is 8-1 while Challenger Du Luc was cut to 14-1 by the Tote.

Irish fortunes, page 38
***Coome Hill poised*, page 39**

Andrew gets return ticket

By David Hands, rugby correspondent

FOR the past 18 months England's rugby union management have looked forward; yesterday they looked back when adding Rob Andrew to the squad preparing for the five nations' championship match with Wales in Cardiff on Saturday. That he is only required as cover in case Paul Grayson should withdraw will not lessen the impact for those whose day is yet to come.

Jack Rowell, the coach, took pains to explain the rationale for calling upon a player of vast experience who retired from international rugby in September 1995. Yet his argument is undermined by the fact that, earlier this season, he chose to gamble with players lacking regular goalkicking experience, but who are deemed to be part of the national development plan for the 1999 World Cup.

It may be that Andrew, who joined colleagues old and new at Marlow yesterday to ironic shouts of "Here comes the Messiah", will return to Newcastle, where he is director of rugby, tonight if Grayson, the Northampton stand-off half, comes through his test on a strained pelvic muscle.

If he withdraws, however, Mike Catt will play at stand-off and Andrew, holder of 70 caps and scorer of 396 points for England, will take his seat among the replacements: "He is experienced, he is a No 10 and he is a goalkicker," Rowell said, criteria that apparently *did not* apply when Catt played stand-off against Italy, the New Zealand Barbarians and Argentina before Christmas and Alex King was a replacement.

The difference, presumably, lies in the fact that a championship and triple crown could yet be won, but it is a retrograde step, brought about because quality English stand-offs are so thin on the ground and quality goalkickers even thinner. Yet Catt has already shown that he can kick goals in the international arena and King, the primary loser in this merry-go-round, has been doing so for England A, even though neither is a regular kicker for his club.

The England management, anticipating the problem, enquired after Andrew's availability on Monday night and confirmed that he was needed on Tuesday afternoon, even though they had also added King and Jonathan Callard to the squad. That King, the Wasps stand-off, had the situation explained to him does not lessen the disappointment, *particularly when Rowell* emphasised how great a part he will play in the build-up to 1999.

"I think this will have a positive effect on Alex," Rowell said. "If he had the experience he needs with his club [where Gareth Rees is the goalkicker] and was successful, then he would be in pole position." However the reaction of Nigel Melville, director of rugby at Wasps, was less studied: "I think it's an enormous step back," he said. "I've nothing against Rob but I bet he's as surprised as me. He's been put on the bench to kick goals. That's the state of English rugby."

It is England's assessment that, were Catt to play and be injured, two players — a stand-off and a goalkicker — would have to replace him whereas Andrew offers both qualities in one individual. "*People will read into it what* they want but we have to have cover for all positions and eventualities," Phil de Glanville, the captain, said.

Meanwhile France will give a first cap to the Brive prop, Didier Casadei, against Scotland in Paris. Casadei plays instead of the suspended Christian Califano and at stand-off half David Aucagne will start an international for the first time, having been capped as a replacement against Wales. He replaces the injured Alain Penaud and will be partnered by Guy Accoceberry, coming in for Philippe Carbonneau, who has a twisted ankle.

England have finally pared down their sevens squad to the required number to defend the World Cup title they won in 1993. Will Greenwood and Shane Roiser are omitted from the ten-strong squad that includes six survivors from those who won at Murrayfield four years ago. They leave for Hong Kong on Sunday and the tournament begins on March 21.

FRANCE (v Scotland): J-L Sadourny (Colomiers); L Leflamand (Bourgoin), C Lamaison (Brive), S Glas (Bourgoin), D Venditti (Brive); D Aucagne (Pau), G Accoceberry (Bègles-Bordeaux); D Casadei (Brive), M Dalmaso (Agen), F Tournaire (Narbonne), A Benazzi (Agen, captain), O Merle (Montferrand), H Miorin (Toulouse), O Magne (Dax), F Pelous (Dax). Replacements: P Bondouy (Narbonne), U Mola (Dax), P Carbonneau (Brive), R Castel (Béziers), J-L Jordana (Toulouse), M de Rougemont (Toulon).

ENGLAND SEVENS SQUAD: A Adebayo (Bath), J Sleightholme (Bath), N Beal (Northampton), M Catt (Bath), A Healey (Leicester), D Scully (Wakefield), T Rodber (Northampton), L Dallaglio (Wasps, captain), N Back (Leicester), C Sheasby (Wasps).

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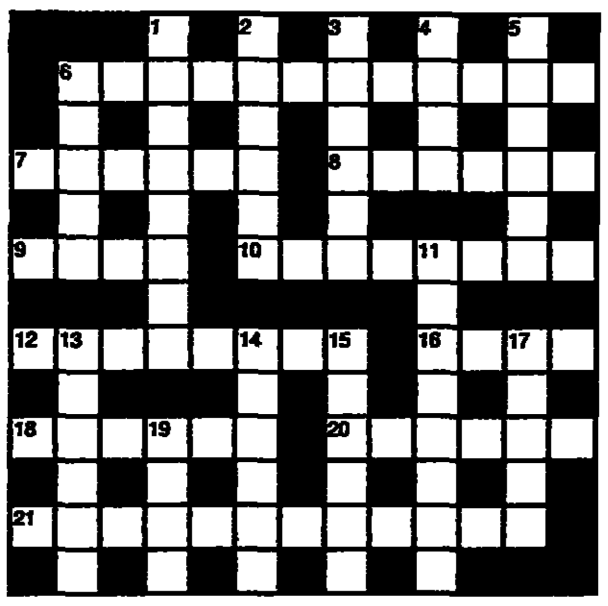

ACROSS
6 (Fight) furiously (5,3,4)
7 A sweet dish: a jolly outing (6)
8 Call into question (6)
9 Informal note (4)
10 Protruding stomach (3,5)
12 Hostile, harmful (8)
16 Flexible pipe (4)
18 Quaker; supporter (6)
20 (Eg fin) on the back (6)
21 *Man's first disobedience* poem (8,4)

DOWN
1 Avid reader: destructive larva (8)
2 Imprison: be quiet (4,2)
3 Ceremonially oil (6)
4 Break: card game (4)
5 Gaelic hero, has Cave (6)
6 Armistice (5)
11 Outside (8)
13 Fortinbras its Prince *(Hamlet)* (6)
14 Golfer's assistant (6)
15 Climbing frame (6)
17 Shock of explosion (5)
19 Formal test (4)

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SOLUTION TO NO 1039
ACROSS: 1 Put down 5 Pack 8 Brutus 9 Heaven 10 Machismo 12 Bath 13 Presbyter 17 Sale 18 Waterloo 20 Abjure 21 Biceps 23 Hewn 24 Saracen
DOWN: 2 Unreal 3 Dot 4 Wasps 5 Play by ear 6 Create 7 Choosy 11 Harlequin 14 Sawyer 15 Babble 16 Toupée 19 Tabla 22 CIA

England's call to arms comes out of the blue

Rob Andrew explains his feelings after being recalled for national service in Cardiff

Yesterday came the morning flight from Newcastle, today may bring the return journey. Yet, having been asked to help the England squad in case Paul Grayson has to withdraw from the game against Wales, I could not help musing how strange it would be if Jonathan Davies and I found ourselves face to face again at Cardiff Arms Park.

I was very surprised to get the call from the England management earlier in the week and I must emphasise that it is only to cover the circumstances of this specific match. We will know more today when Paul takes part in the team training and discovers whether *his goalkicking* has been affected by his injury.

If I can assist England by sitting on the replacements' bench in Cardiff, then I will be happy to do so. I did consider declining, because, after all, I made my decision to retire from international rugby nearly two years ago and nothing has changed my mind. This is not the start of a comeback, still less a belated challenge for a place on tour with the British Lions!

However, I thought about it carefully for 24 hours. Jack Rowell and the management team found themselves in a situation in which they felt I could help for one game and I am prepared to do that. I am quite happy with my form and fitness, but, whatever happens, *I will be back in* Newcastle on Sunday because we have a league match with Nottingham that day.

It did cross my mind, though, that Jonathan, who has said that this will be his last international, made his debut for Wales against me in Cardiff in 1985. I ended up with 11 points and he scored seven, including the try that swung the match Wales's way. They won 24-15, though I had the better of the argument at Twickenham the next year. Neither of us scored in the dire game of 1987.

It is a pretty strange set of circumstances that could bring us together again, one that nobody could have envisaged a couple of days ago. Basically, it is the issue of goalkicking that has done it, which the England establishment will have to address. I do not regard the argument that suggests that Tim Stimpson should be given greater kicking opportunities at Newcastle as relevant.

We are in a professional sport and the fact is that Tim *has not done enough work on* his kicking to take that role at Newcastle. We are working hard to make him a good, all-round full back, but we have to serve the best interests of the club. Tim and Mike Catt have each been goalkickers and, given the coaching skills of Dave Alred, it is surprising that England are in this situation.

Andrew muses on his recall by England yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Bank rejects bid to buy Bournemouth

BOURNEMOUTH edged closer to extinction yesterday when a takeover bid for the struggling Nationwide League second division club was rejected by Lloyds Bank, its biggest creditor (Russell Kempson writes). The attempt was made by a consortium of Bournemouth supporters and local businesses.

Alan Lewis, the club's Receiver, said: "We have had only one offer for the club and it has now been rejected by the bank. There comes a point when you have to wonder if it is worth going on."

Terry Lovell, the commercial manager, painted a similarly bleak picture. "If anything, things are getting worse here," he said. "It's not as if we haven't got any money at all. We've got around £1 million in a trust fund, in money and pledges, and we're actually running at a profit for the first time in ages.

"People are still very enthusiastic about our cause and sympathetic towards us but *we don't seem to be making a* lot of headway with the people that matter. It doesn't help, either, when the bank appears to keep changing the goalposts."

Lloyds sent in the Receivers to retrieve £2.1 million owed to them by Bournemouth, which has total debts in excess of £4.4 million. It faces a winding-up order in the High Court next week over £365,000 unpaid taxes. A crowd of only 3,368 watched the 3-0 defeat of Chesterfield, the FA Cup semi-finalists, on Tuesday.

Bournemouth's plight will be discussed at the monthly meeting of the board of directors of the Football League in London today. "We are monitoring their situation on a daily basis," a spokesman said. "We are as concerned as anyone."

Agreement reached on Brighton's future

A DEAL has been struck between Bill Archer and Greg Stanley, the co-owners of *Brighton and Hove* Albion, and the prospective buyers of the troubled Nationwide League third division club.

Mediators at the Centre of Dispute Resolution (CEDR), who were appointed by the Football Association to try to resolve the deadlock at the club, said last night that a fourth round of talks between the parties had gone well but added that details of the deal had been held back for legal consideration.

The latest talks took place in London at the headquarters of the centre, where Archer and Stanley met with Dick Knight, the leader of the consortium that is trying to take over the club, and his colleague, Martin Perry. Brighton remain at the foot of the league despite their recent improvement.

A statement released by the CEDR afterwards said: "After further day of mediation at CEDR's offices, the parties are *pleased to report* that agreement has been reached between the owners and the consortium led by Dick Knight on the future structure of Brighton and Hove Albion.

"A number of legal points need to be resolved before full details of the deal can be announced. This is expected shortly."

Archer left the meeting without comment and Stanley would only say he was "pleased".

Brighton must leave the Goldstone Ground after 95 years at the end of this season. Before Christmas the club announced controversial proposals to share Gillingham's ground. The majority of Brighton supporters have been pressing for Brighton-born Knight to take total control of the club.

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